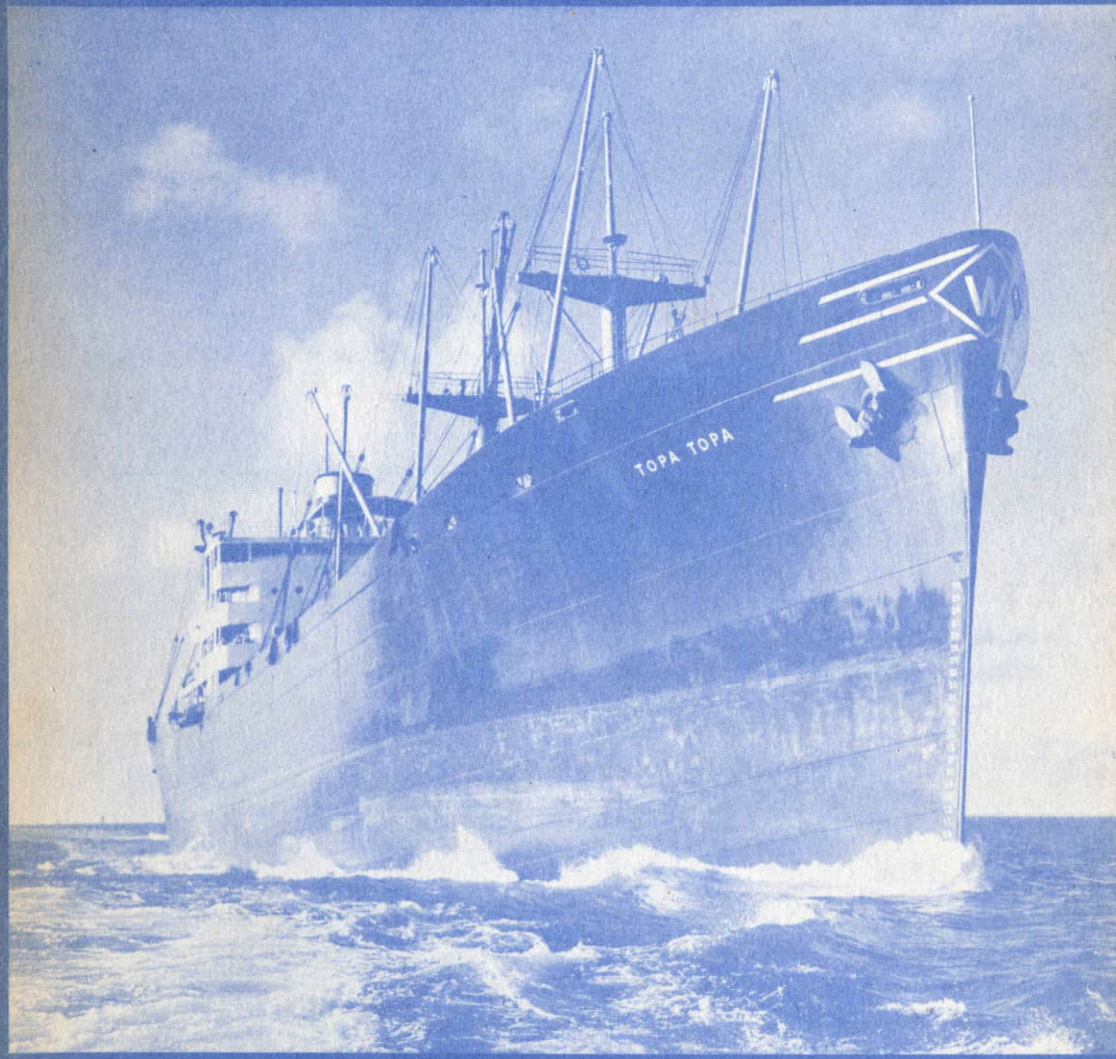
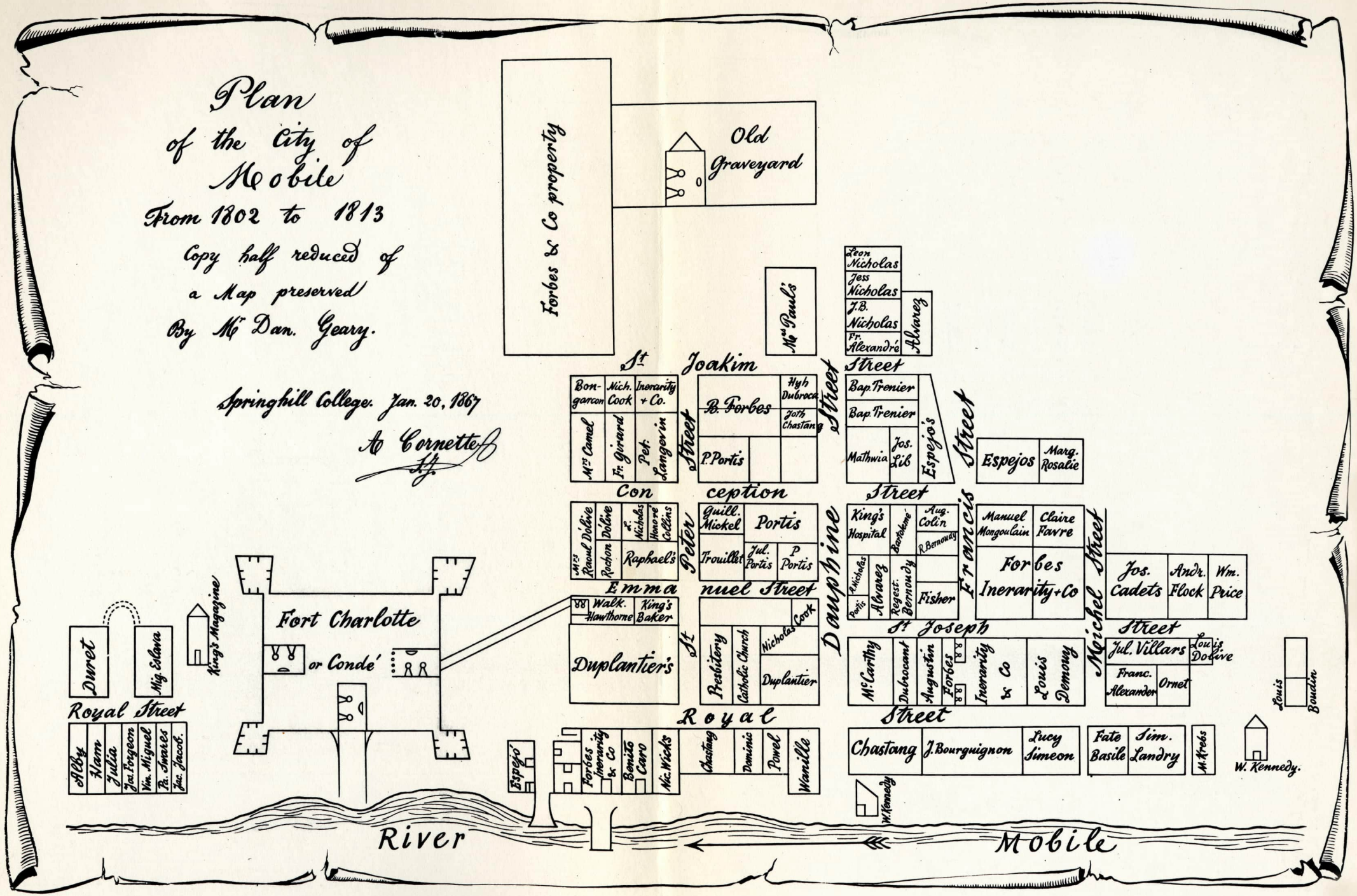
MOBILE



Courtesy, Mr. R. A. Alvarez

HOME PORT

This Waterman ship is coming up Mobile Channel to the State Docks.



COURTESY, FIRST NATIONAL BANK

MOBILE

A History Reader for the
Fourth Grade

A RELIC OF COLONIAL DAYS
FRENCH CANNON IN BIENVILLE SQ.
A MEMENTO OF CIVIL WAR DAYS
ADMIRAL FARRAGUT
AUG. 5TH 1864
CITY OF MOBILE
PIÑEDA
Being a Map of
MOBILE BAY
called "ECHVSE" by the Indians; discovered by the Spanish navigator Piñeda in 1519 and named "ESPIRITV SANTO". Later it was known as CVIATA, also as FILIPINA, and was given its present name by the French after the MAVBILA INDIANS who fought so bravely against De Soto in 1540 in what is now south Clarke County.
IT IS THUS
WE MEASURE
THE MILE
Statute Miles.
Nautical Miles (Knots)
1 Nautical Mile Equals 1.152 Statute Miles.
SCHOONER "CLOTILDE" 1859
LAST SLAVE SHIP TO ENTER A U.S.A. PORT.
CONFEDERATE IRONCLAD TENNESSEE, FLAGSHIP AUG. 5, 1864
MALDONADO WITH HIS FLEET, ENTERS THE BAY OF ESPIRITV SANTO AND THRO LONG MONTHS KEEPS IN VAIN HIS ERENDEZVOVS WITH DE SOTO. 1540
U.S. WARSHIP "HARTFORD" FLAGSHIP, AUG. 5, 1864. IN THE BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY.
BON SECOVR BAY.
OYSTER BEDS.
MISSISSIPPI SOVND
FORT POWELL.
FT. GAINES.
YE BRITISH WARSHIP "HERMES" DESTROYED IN ATTACK ON FT. BOYER, SEPT. 14, 1814.
Confederate Commerce Destroyer "Florida" Runs thro the U.S. Blockading Fleet, 1863
SAND ISLAND LIGHT HO.
RED SNAPPER BANKS.
GOLFO de MEJICO.
MAGNETIC VARIATION 5 DEGREES EAST, IN 1927; INCREASING 1 MINUTE PER ANNUM.
Copyright 1937 by N.H. Holmes, Delineator

MOBILE

A History Reader for the Fourth Grade

MOBILE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MOBILE, ALABAMA

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Board of School Commissioners
Mobile, Alabama
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"Yea, I have a goodly heritage."
Ps. 16-6

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead
who never to himself hath said:
'This is my own, my native land!'"
SIR WALTER SCOTT

DEDICATION

To the school girls and boys of Mobile
This is your book

Thank You

Without the help of many Mobilians this History Reader would not have been possible. They love their city and have proven their pride in our bright heritage by their splendid cooperation.

Mr. R. B. Chandler, President-Publisher of The Mobile Press Register, was first to advance the need of such a book, so that each child in the schools would have his own story of Mobile. And, generously, he offered to underwrite the expenses of such a book. He is responsible for most of the fine pictures which appear in this issue.

The late Dr. K. J. Clark, Superintendent, gave the History Reader his approval. A group of teachers from the Fourth Grades, where Mobile history is first taught, began the work. Its final phases were left to the undersigned continuing committee.

When the book was ready to go to press, the way was paved for its printing by action of the Mobile School Board: President Arthur Smith, Jr., Vice-President John S. Shaw, and Commissioners Alfred Delchamps, Dan T. McCall, Jr., and Kenneth Reed.

Many thanks are due to Dr. Cranford H. Burns, Superintendent, for his invaluable and sympathetic counsel during the preparation of the book. Also to:

Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, Director of the Department of Archives and History at Montgomery, and to Dr. Toulmin Gaines for critical review of the manuscript.

The Waterman Steamship Company, especially Mr. W. P. Moulton, Administrative Assistant.

The Alabama Power Company, particularly Mr. L. M. Smith of Birmingham, President.

The staff of The Mobile Press Register, Mr. George M. Cox, Executive Editor, Mrs. Dorothy Wilkins, Librarian and especially Mr. William W. Lavendar, Photographer, who made numerous pictures for the book.

Mr. Raymond A. Alvarez and Mr. John F. Glennon, of the Alabama State Docks.

Mrs. Sidney Phillips for authentic sketches of Old Fort Louis and Mobile's Six Flags.

The First National Bank, especially Mr. Albert E. Reynolds, for permission to reprint the Acker pen sketches from the bank's anniversary volume, "Highlights of 75 Years in Mobile."

The Mobile Public Library, particularly Mrs. Emma C. Harris and Mr. R. L. Bell.

Mrs. A. S. Mitchell, Mr. Blake McNeely, Mrs. J. E. Beck; and these others from our schools: Miss Lenore Jones, Miss Vivian Jelks, Mrs. Lillian Stein, Mr. R. L. Booker, Dr. C. L. Scarborough, Mr. Carl Watson, Mr. John Montgomery, Mr. Melvin Hetland, Mr. Jack Ingram, and Mrs. Mary Burroughs.

To all who helped, the History Reader committee wishes to express its grateful appreciation.

Laura E. Simmons

Helen Stanford

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Mildred Wiggins

Cora Shipman, Secretary

Frances Durham, Editor

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Chapter I

Mound Builders and Indians

Have you ever wondered how Mobile began?

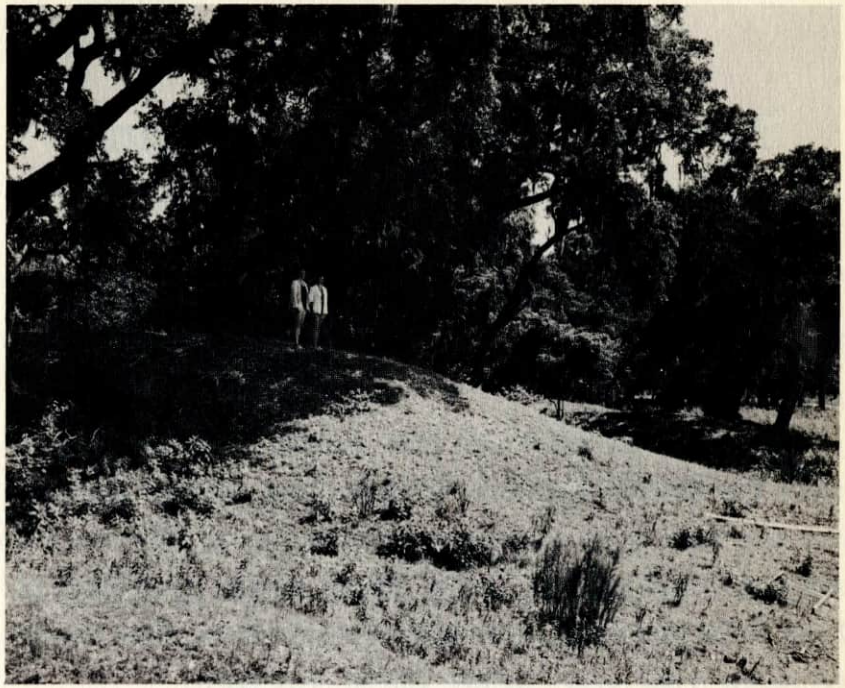
This book was written for you, young citizens of Mobile. It tells you how our city began and how it has grown.

Thousands of years ago, the people who lived here were the Mound Builders. We call them Mound Builders because they built mounds near their homes. We can see some of these mounds today. These people lived here at least 5,000 years ago, even before the Indians. That would be about 3,000 years before Christ was born.

The first people to live in a country are called aborigines. The Mound Builders were the first people who ever lived here, so far as we know. We do not even know their real name. We do know something about them from the things they left in their mounds.

You may see some of these mounds in Mobile County and elsewhere in Alabama. At one place, called Moundville, men have dug up and studied the tools and dishes and weapons that the Mound Builders made and used. These tools and weapons tell us something about how the Mound Builders lived.

The Mound Builders were probably wandering tribes.



An Indian mound on Dauphin Island built thousands of years ago. Tools, dishes and weapons of an earlier race have been found in such mounds.
COURTESY, MR. BLAKE MCNEELY

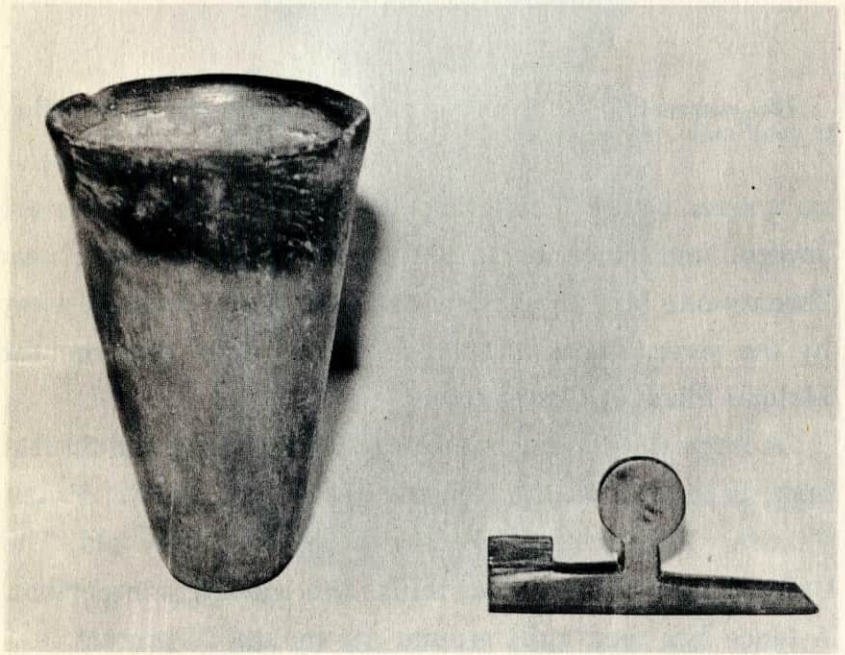
They lived in one place and then another, looking for good land for their villages. Wherever they stayed for some time they built mounds. We find these mounds along our rivers. Explorers, digging into the mounds, have found weapons and pottery the Mound Builders made and used. From the markings on these things it seemed that they belonged to a very early race of people.

Some of the mounds are round-topped. They were probably built as a safe place for people and cattle in time of high water. Some seem to have been burial mounds.

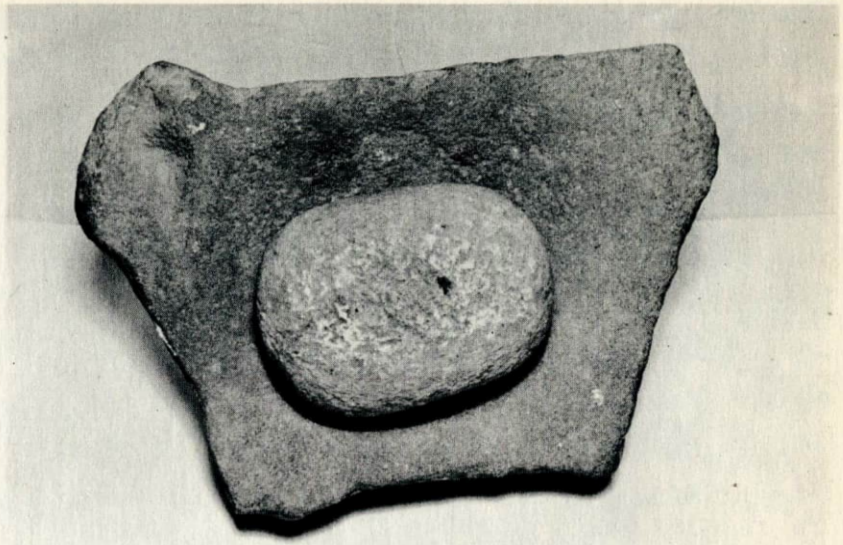
The flat-topped mounds were temples for worship. When you visit the Mobile Public Library museum you may see broken bits of pottery, dug up some years ago, near Mobile. Perhaps they were used by the Mound Builders.

Other mounds were piled up near their camps or villages. These mounds contain broken clay pots, arrow heads, and shells that were thrown away in piles. They are called kitchen middens. In other words, they were the garbage dumps of the tribe.

Then there are oblong mounds like graves, only larger. Some of these you will find at Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff,



This red clay vase from an Alabama coastal mound is a fine example of Indian pottery. The Indian pipe is the kind used as a "peace pipe."
COURTESY, MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY



This mortar and pestle, found in a coastal mound, was used by the Indians to grind their corn into meal.

COURTESY, MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY

on a river bank, 27 miles up the Mobile River. There are several small mounds in a field on the Bru Place, near Twenty-one Mill Bluff. One has been partly washed away by the river. There is another mound like this on the Malone Place at Georgetown.

A large flat-top mound, about 200 feet long and 30 feet high, is located on the Tensas River just below Mount Vernon. This mound is said to be very, very old. The United States Government thinks this mound is important. A fence has been built around the mound to protect it.

You will find some shell mounds at Coden on the Gulf Coast of Mobile County. However, not all shell mounds

belonged to the Mound Builders. Some mounds were built by Indians thousands of years later. Some may be just mounds of oyster shells piled up by oyster shuckers in recent years.

From early mound of Alabama Coast. Modeled face and figure show Aztec influence.

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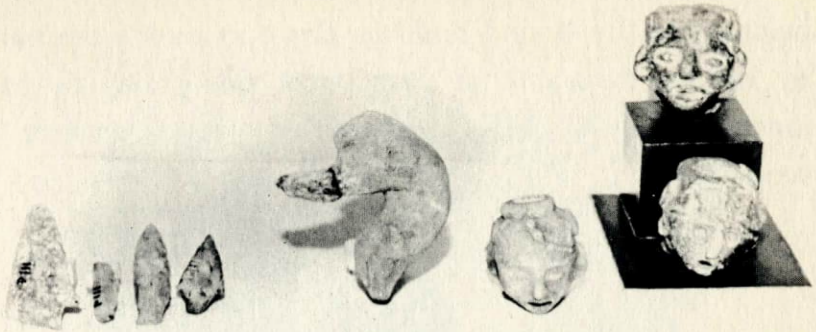


Arrow heads, knife, and duck head from Dauphin Island mounds. The heads, modeled in clay, from Coden mounds, were loaned to the library by Dr. C. C. Cox.

COURTESY, MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dr. Walter B. Jones, the State Geologist, has made a list of all the Mound Builders' mounds in Alabama. By digging into a mound, a geologist is able to tell how old it is. He can say whether it was built by the earliest people or by later people who have lived here. A trip to the mounds in Mobile County is a real adventure for any boy or girl who likes history.

Now let's skip from the Mound Builders up to 1492, the year when Columbus discovered America. He was looking for India, but he discovered a New World instead. Other explorers followed him. Some of them sailed into Mobile Bay. They found here a race of red men. They called them Indians.

These red-skinned people were quite different from the white men who saw them for the first time. They looked different and they spoke a different language. They did things in a different way. There were several tribes of these Indians living in Alabama: Choctaws, Chickasaws,

Cherokees, and Creeks. These Indians lived in villages in the forest clearings. The white men learned how the Indians lived, how they hunted and fished, what clothes they wore, and what weapons they made. Today we are still studying about them.

Some people say that the word "Alabama" means "Thicket-Clearers", for the Alabama Indians lived in villages that they cleared out of the forest. That is a fine meaning for our State's name. Whether people clear away thickets of underbrush or whether they clear away thickets of ignorance, they make this world a better place to live in.

Where Mobile now stands the Indians cleared a place for a village on the river bank. They called it Maubila. That was the name of their tribe. Today, that small Indian village has grown into our city of Mobile. It is now a great seaport and industrial city.

Chapter II

The Spaniards Come

The Mobile you know is a large city where the State of Alabama has built great docks. You can see big ships coming up Mobile Bay to unload. You can see other ships going out with cargoes of American products for all the countries of the world.

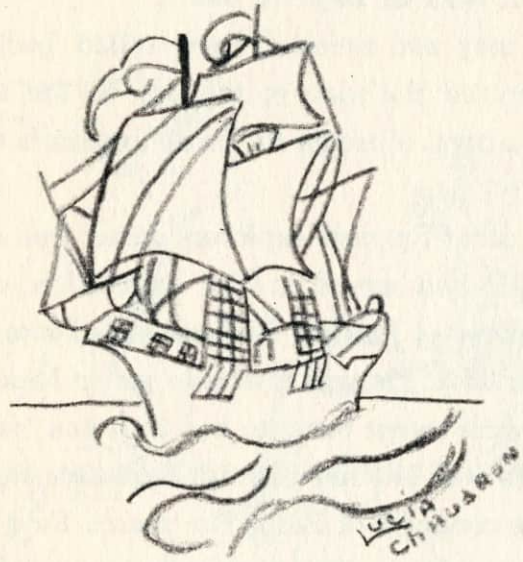
It was not always like this. Imagine that it is a sunny morning in the spring of 1519 on Mobile Bay. Where our busy waterfront now stretches, you see a shoreline with trees growing down to the river's edge. In one place the trees have been cleared away. Here is the Indian village. You see Indian canoes on the water. The red men are shading their eyes from the sun as it rises over the eastern shore.

You remember, that after Columbus discovered the New World in 1492, he went back to Spain to tell the king what he had found. Stories of gold and jewels in the new land were told everywhere. Many daring men heard these stories and wanted to make the same voyage. They formed ships' companies. They set out across the ocean to seek a fortune. They hoped to bring new territory and greater glory to their country, the kingdom of Spain.

Some of these ships sailed into Mobile Bay. The Indians

were curious. Their own boats were light canoes hollowed out of logs and moved with paddles. Now they saw tall vessels, fitted with billowing sails, moving up the bay.

These ships that the Indians watched were the expedition of Piñeda, the Spaniard. He was the first ex-



A Spanish galleon or large sailing vessel of the kind used by the Spanish explorers in Mobile Bay in the 16th century.

COURTESY, LUCIA CHAUDRON, ARTIST

plorer to enter Mobile Bay, so far as we know. He steered his ships toward the shore, anchored them, and furled the sails. For days the Maubila Indians watched. On the decks they could see soldiers in armor with helmets and swords. They could also see some men on the ships working at long tables. Each man held a small tool in his hand. Was it a knife? And what was he cutting? The Indians did not

know that these tools were pens for drawing boards. These men were map makers. They were making a map of Mobile Bay. They asked Piñeda what name they should give to the bay. Piñeda was a religious man. He gave the bay its first name, "Bay of the Holy Spirit." In his own language he called it **Baia de Espiritu Santo.**

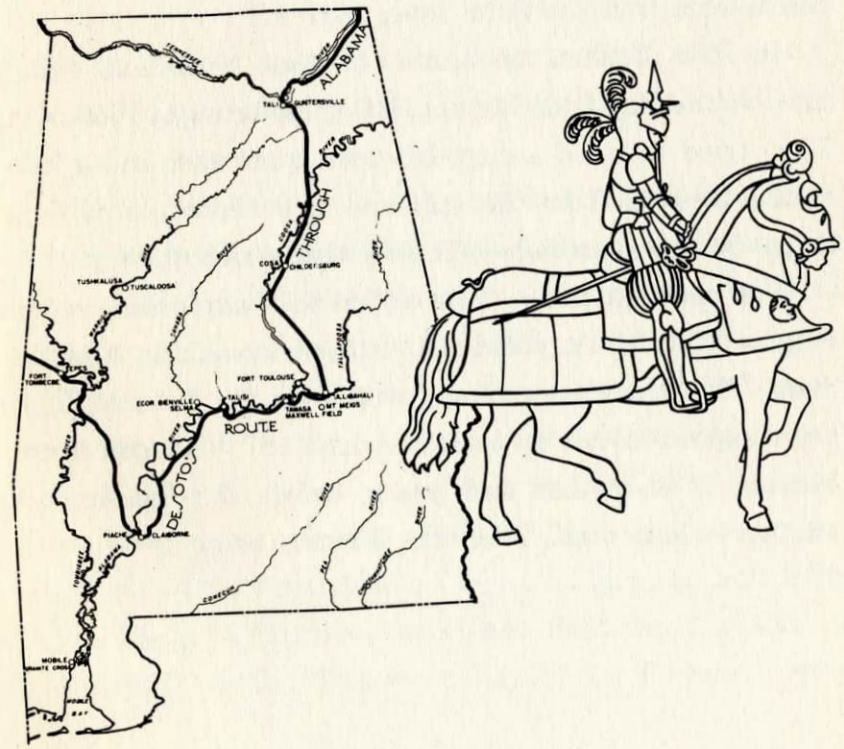
When they had finished, they sailed back to Spain. Piñeda showed the map of the bay to the king. It was placed in a royal museum for other explorers to study and to use.

Later, other Spanish explorers came. One of these was Narvaez. He had served in the expedition of Ponce de Leon, explorer of Florida. Narvaez sailed into Mobile Bay in the year 1528. He was trying to get to Mexico. Instead, his ships were swept out into the Gulf and lost their way.

De Soto was another Spanish explorer. He had grown rich in the conquest of Peru. The search for gold was like a fever in his blood. The king gave him permission to go on another expedition in search of more gold. With a group of adventurers he landed in Florida in 1539. They decided to explore the land on foot. They marched through the forests of Georgia and Alabama. They wore iron armor. Their weapons were mostly long spears. It was very difficult to march with such equipment. But they kept on over mountains and rivers.

After many months the Spaniards came to a place just north of Mobile. Here they fought a great battle with the

Indians under Chief Tuskaloosa. The Spaniards were defeated. Many were killed. De Soto was badly wounded by a poisoned arrow. He and the few who were left wandered through the forest until they reached the Mississippi River. There he died and his body was secretly buried beneath



De Soto marched into Alabama about 1539. He entered near Guntersville in North Alabama, came as far south as Claiborne in Monroe County and went out near Epes in Green County.

COURTESY, MR. L. M. SMITH, PRESIDENT, ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

its muddy waters. In history De Soto is known as the man who discovered the mighty Mississippi.

Maldonado was one of De Soto's lieutenants. He had been left in Florida with orders to sail to Mobile Bay a year later. De Soto expected to meet him there. Isabella, De Soto's wife, came to Dauphin Island to wait for her husband. In 1540, Maldonado sailed into Mobile Bay, as he had agreed, but De Soto never arrived.

In 1559, Tristan de Luna, another Spaniard, sailed into Mobile Bay from Mexico. His ships brought 1500 men. They tried to build a city. His men quarreled and a hurricane blew in from the gulf and wrecked some of their ships. So this plan failed. The survivors sailed away.

You see that none of these Spanish explorers stayed long at Mobile. They did not succeed in making a settlement. They did not get along well with the Indians. They were explorers, not settlers. The land still belonged to the Indians. It was years and years before the Indians saw another white man. Then the French came.

Chapter III

The Flag of the Golden Lilies

France, in the year 1700, was a great kingdom far away across the Atlantic. King Louis XIV of France was the most powerful king in all the world. He had a splendid court, magnificent palaces, fine clothes, and jewels. He gave many parties. In order to pay for all this he needed large sums of money.

King Louis thought that he could get some gold from America. He planned to claim all of the new country for France. To do this he would need some brave and bold adventurers. The French king found just the men he was looking for in the Le Moyne brothers from French Canada. Pierre and Jean Baptiste were as brave and bold as any king could wish. These young men wanted fame and fortune. King Louis selected them for the American enterprise. He gave them titles of honor. Pierre received the title of Sieur d'Iberville, and Jean Baptiste, the title of Sieur de Bienville. The word "sieur" in French means "lord."

All the plans were made. One day, in the year 1702, a ship sailed into Mobile Bay. This ship was flying the French flag. The flag is called the **Fleur de Lis** because it has three golden lilies on a white background. The day

BIENVILLE (After MARGRY)
b. 1680 — d. 1768

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

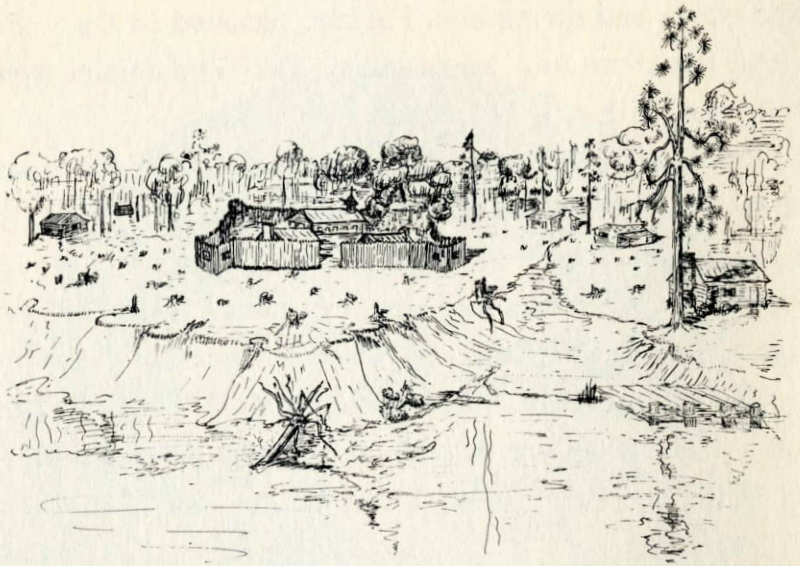
was warm and spring-like. Flowers bloomed in the woods along the shore and birds sang. The Frenchmen were delighted with this beautiful new land.

The ship sailed on, twenty-seven miles above the mouth of the river. There, on a bluff, they picked out a place for a city. These men from France built a log fort. Above it they raised the white flag with the golden lilies. The new city was named for their king and for the friendly Maubila Indians living there. Thus the first settlement of white men in Alabama was named "Fort Louis de la Mobile."

There was game of all kinds in the woods. Hunting proved a gay pastime for the adventurers. The Indians soon found out that the French were not cruel to them. Many stories have been told of the friendship between the French and their Indian brothers.

In 1706, Pierre Le Moyne died of yellow fever. King Louis then made Bienville governor of Mobile. He ruled wisely and well for over forty years. Mobile has honored his memory by naming its downtown square for him. His name and that of his brother, d'Iberville, are found on streets and buildings all over the city. Some of you who read this may be pupils at Bienville School. It, too, was named in honor of Mobile's governor.

All did not go well with the little colony on Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff. The river rose and flooded the settlement. Bienville decided to move Fort Louis de la Mobile to a safer place. In 1711, the French settlement was moved



Old Fort Louis de la Mobile. The foot of Government Street about 1711 and the stockade of the fort, just north of what is now the Kirkbride House.
COURTESY, MRS. SIDNEY PHILLIPS, THE ARTIST

to the site where the city now stands. As time went on its name was shortened to Mobile.

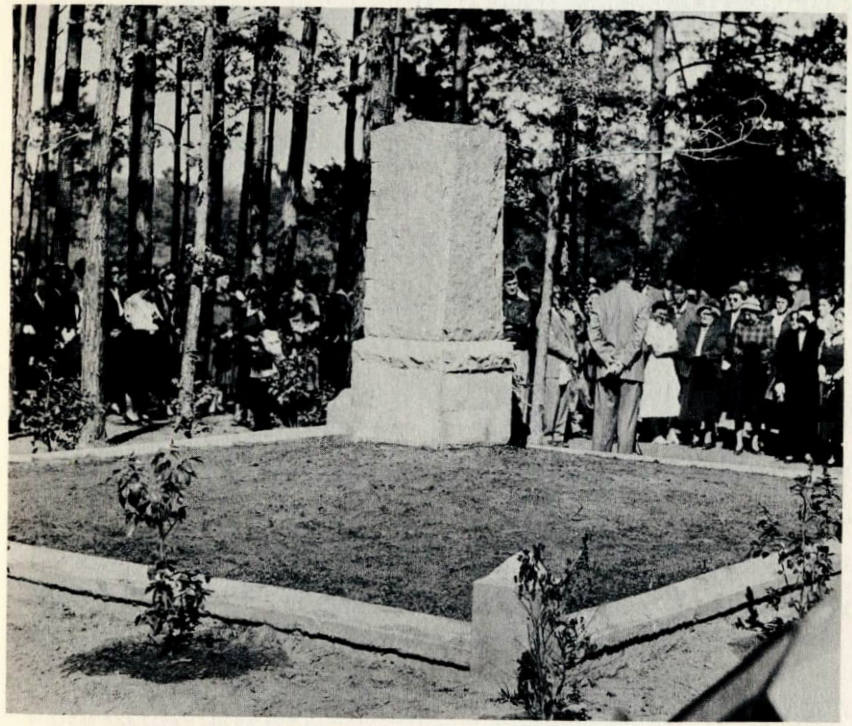
Moving the city proved to be a hard job. Legends tell how even the Indian women helped. They carried dirt in baskets to fill in the streets near the water front.

The early grill work or iron lace in Mobile came down to us from the beauty-loving French people. As they built better homes the French decorated them with hand-forged iron work. Some of our streets still have the names given to them by the French. Dauphin was named for the Dauphin of France, heir to the throne. Others were named for saints whom the French venerated: St. Louis, St. Francis, St. Michael. Royal Street was once the Rue Royale. Conti

was named for a French officer who helped to settle the new country.

The French have always been admired for their polite manners and good taste. They left this as a heritage to the people of Mobile.

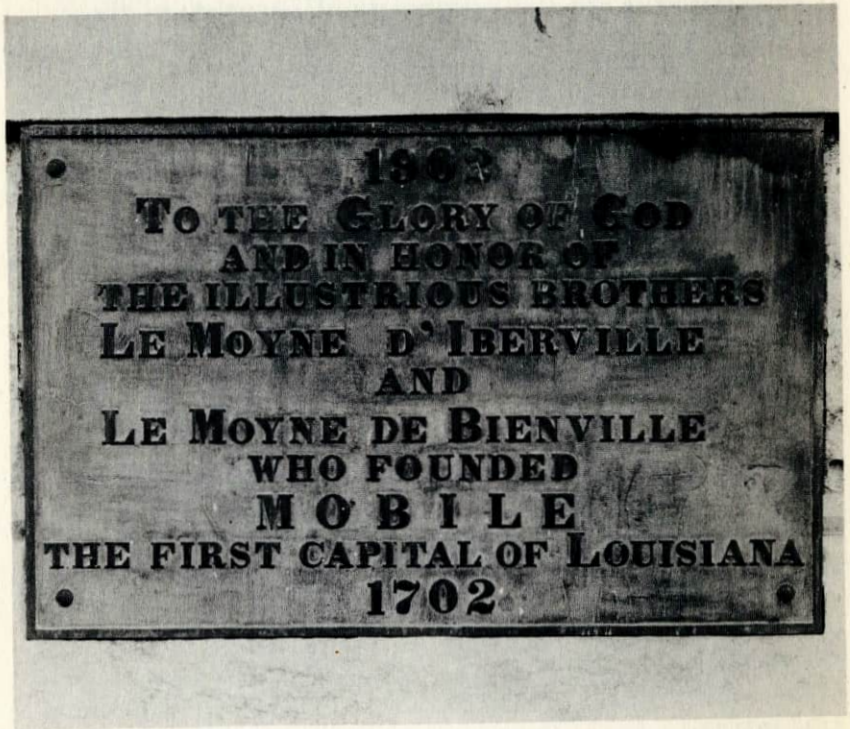
The young men in Bienville's expedition wanted to remain in the new country. Still they found life here rather lonely. Bienville asked the king to send young women to make homes for the settlers. French orphan girls of good character were selected to be brides for the soldiers. These



In 1952 Mobile citizens observed the 250th anniversary of the founding of Mobile, at site of Old Fort Louis, Twenty-seven Mile Bluff.
COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

girls came over with all their belongings in small chests or caskets. The girls are known in history as "Les Filles de les Casettes" or casket girls.

Bienville died in France in 1768. For a long time the English had wanted to settle on the Gulf coast. This caused the French and the Spanish to join together to keep the English out. But the powerful English navy was too strong for them. In the end, by the Treaty of Paris, France gave up most of her land along this coast. Mobile became an English city.



Bronze tablet to Mobile founders on courthouse.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

Chapter IV

English Settlers Start a Colony

Back of Kirkbride House is part of original wall of Fort Condé, oldest masonry in Mobile.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

Once upon a time two little boys were playing marbles. Both claimed the same taw. They couldn't agree, so their fists began to fly.

Once upon another time two big nations started a fight. France and England went to war. Many Indians of this section joined the French. Together, they were not strong

enough and they were defeated by the English.

On October 20, 1763, a regiment of Scottish Highlanders marched into Mobile and took possession. The French people saw their beautiful Flag of the Golden Lilies come slowly down. England's Union Jack was raised in its place. The English changed the name of Fort Condé to Fort Charlotte. This was in honor of England's queen. Would you like to see a part of the wall of this old fort? Then go to the Kirkbride House on Theatre Street and you will find it.

England now owned all of the land east of the Mississippi River. However, most of Alabama was still held by the Indians. By a treaty with the red men, the English gained most of this land. Then a stream of settlers began to pour in. Some came from Old England. Others came from colonies along the Atlantic. The settlers from the coast came on foot. They brought their goods on pack horses over the Indian trails. Some of our great highways today follow those same old trails.

Among these settlers was Lachlan McGillivray. He was a red-haired adventurer from Scotland. He landed in Charleston, South Carolina. He had only the clothes he was wearing, one lone shilling in his pocket, and a merry twinkle in his eye. A pack train was just leaving for Alabama. Lachlan's sunny smile won for him a job with this band. For his hard work along the way he was given a jackknife. He traded it for a rabbit skin. His trading grew until he became a wealthy man. He married Sehoy Mar-

Chief McIntosh was a Creek warrior who fought with the Americans in the War of 1812.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

chand. Her father was French and her mother was a Creek Indian. Lachlan and Sehoy became the parents of Alexander McGillivray. He was the rascal who fooled three nations at once. Alexander built up a fortune with his line of Indian trading posts. They stretched as far away as Pensacola.

Another Scot was Charles Weatherford. He married the sly Alexander's sister, Jeannette. They were the parents of the great chieftain, Lamochate, the Red Eagle. His English or Scottish name was William Weatherford.

McIntosh, Alabama, recalls the name of Chief McIntosh. Son of a Scottish trader, this Creek chieftain fought with the Americans in the War of 1812. For his services McIntosh was given the rank of major. A treaty was drawn up giving Creek lands to the white man, but 36 Creek chiefs refused to sign it. McIntosh led the Creek allies who signed. The other chiefs made a law punishing with death those who handed over Creek lands to the Americans. Sentence of death was formally passed on McIntosh and a party of warriors carried it out in 1825.

Then came young Musgrove who married the little princess, Consaponaheeso. She was also known as Mary Musgrove. Her gentle wisdom kept peace between the English and the Indians.

The English divided their lands into plantations. They raised rice, tobacco and indigo. At that time not much cotton was raised. It took too much time and work to separate the seeds from the lint. They loaded their little ships with tallow, bear's oil, tar and pitch, myrtlewax, and other things. These products were sent to England. They were exchanged for goods that could not be made in the new land.

In 1780, the Union Jack came down and the Spanish flag took its place. At that time we were at war with England. We were fighting for our independence. Our leader, General George Washington, made a plan with the Spaniards in New Orleans. Its purpose was to take Mobile away from the English. Galvez, with two thousand Spaniards, landed at Choctaw Point. The English could not hold Fort Charlotte. Once again Mobile's government changed. It became a Spanish city.

Chapter V

Ellicott's Stone Marks Boundary

Nations, like small boys, have always quarreled over boundary lines. Fighting over a boundary line was an old story when Mobile was young. All the great nations in Europe wanted Mobile and the land around it. These nations, England, France, and Spain, were called the Great Powers. At times Mobile people hardly knew to what country the city belonged.

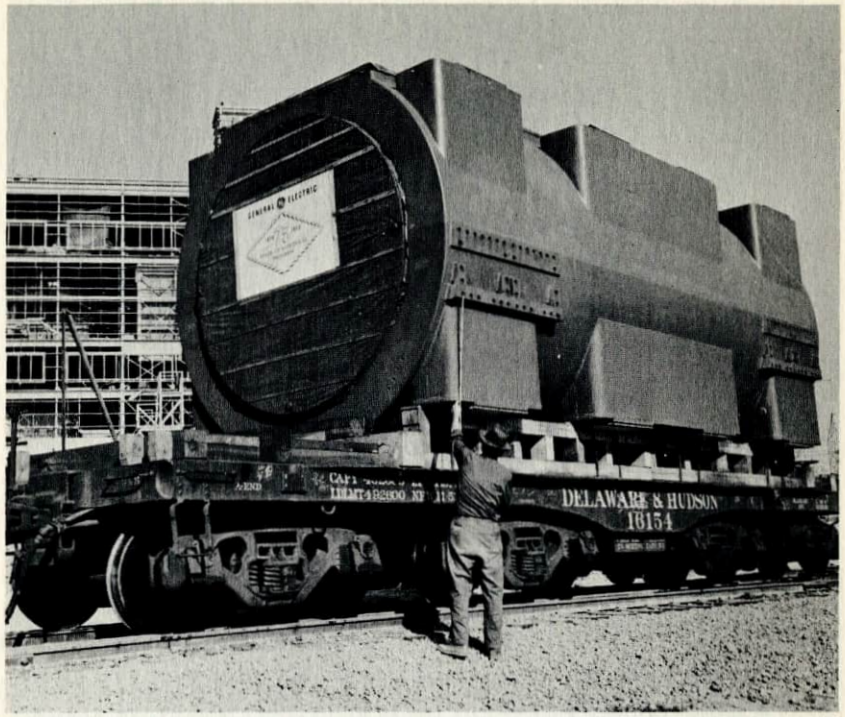
Pensacola did not know that Fort Charlotte had surrendered to Galvez. Spanish troops started from Pensacola toward Mobile. They were coming to help take the city. They marched as far as the shore of Mobile Bay. Messengers met them a short distance north of our Cochrane Bay Bridge. The messengers brought news of the fort's surrender. The Spaniards halted, made camp, and later built a fort. This was done to hold the land against another English attack. Traces of this Old Spanish Fort still remain. Go about a mile north of the east end of the bridge to find them.

When Spain took over, many disputes arose about boundary lines. The Spanish colonies extended to the south. The United States territory extended north. General Washington was a surveyor. He thought the land

Marker placed in 1799 on Mobile River to set boundary between lands of Spain and America. On the South side are the Spanish words "Dominios de S. M. Carlos IV. Lat. 31°—1799."

should be surveyed to settle these quarrels. Thomas Pinckney was sent to Spain to talk it over with that country. The two countries agreed that the 31st parallel should be the boundary.

The surveyors started far apart and worked toward each other. The Spaniards came up from the south. Our men started in the north and worked toward the south.



Giant stator arrives to be installed at one of the generating units at Barry Steam Plant near Ellicott's Stone.

COURTESY, MR. L. M. SMITH, PRESIDENT, ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

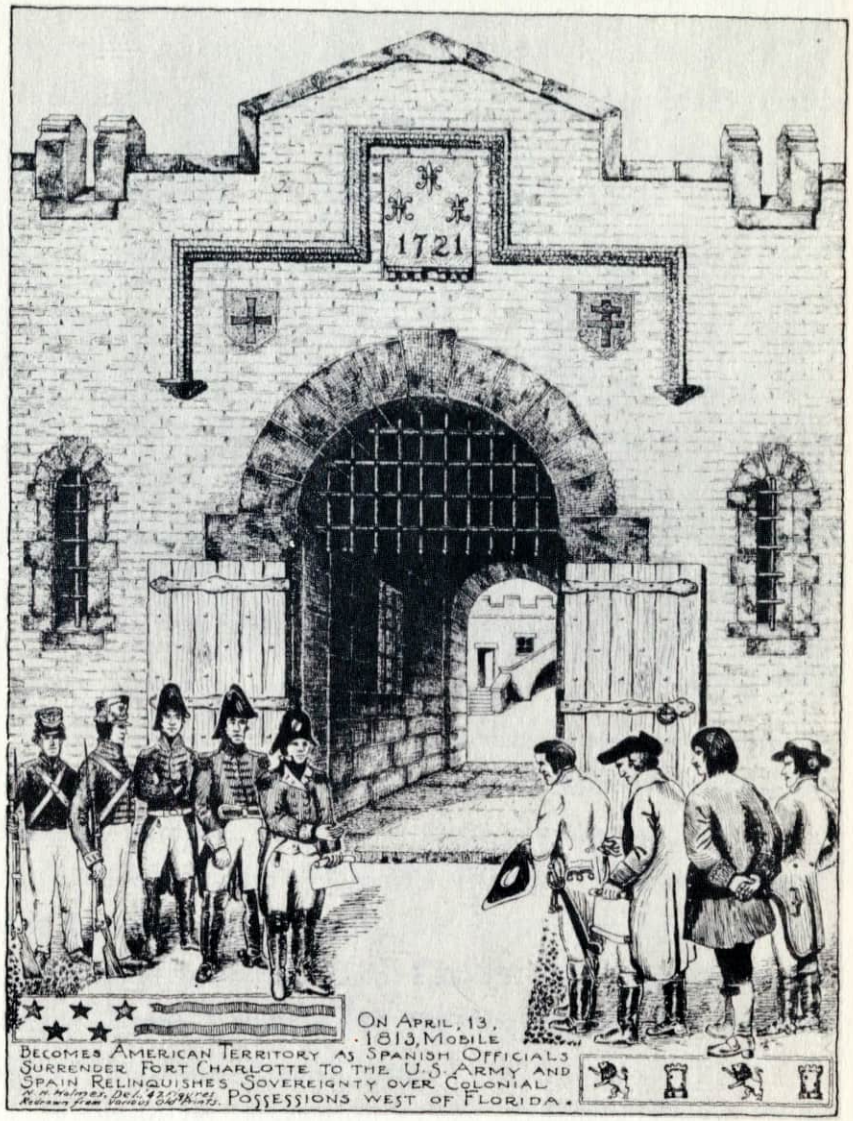
They came together where the Mobile River is crossed by the 31st parallel. They set a stone marker on the river bank. It was called "Ellicott's Stone." Andrew Ellicott was the surveyor for the United States. On the north side of the stone is carved "U. S. Lat. 31° 1799". On the south side is carved "Lands of His Majesty, Charles IV". Charles IV was then the Spanish king.

It would be interesting to see Ellicott's Stone. It is north of Mobile near the Barry Steam Plant of the Alabama Power Company. Some of the readers of this book

are pupils of Ellicott School. The school was named for this noted surveyor.

The Spanish governor lived in Pensacola. Spanish officers were appointed for Mobile. The leader was called an "Intendent." The judge was the "Alcalde." Don Miguel Eslava was the king's treasurer. The name Eslava Street came down to us from the Spanish rule. Some of the places owned by Mobilians today are old Spanish land grants.

A few years later we were forced to fight our second war with England. Spain was willing to join her old enemy to fight us. We won against both countries. On April 13, 1813, General James Wilkinson arrived from New Orleans. He sailed up Mobile Bay and took the city for the United States. At last over the city waved our own Red, White, and Blue.


1721
ON APRIL, 13, 1813, MOBILE
BECOMES AMERICAN TERRITORY AS SPANISH OFFICIALS
SURRENDER FORT CHARLOTTE TO THE U.S. ARMY AND
SPAIN RELINQUISHES SOVEREIGNTY OVER COLONIAL
POSSESSIONS WEST OF FLORIDA.

Mobile becomes American Territory.

COURTESY, MR. N. H. HOLMES, DELINEATOR

Chapter VI

American Pioneers Arrive

Do you know who pioneers are?

Pioneers are those hardy people who go ahead to a new land to prepare a place for others.

The Indians who were the first people that we know of in this country, were aborigines. We would not call them "pioneers". We know that the French were really the first white men who tried to settle in Alabama, but we do not call them pioneers. Perhaps it is because the French did not stay on in possession of these lands. What is now Alabama was part of 530 million acres in the South and West which President Thomas Jefferson bought for the United States from France. All of this land cost a total of 27 and one-fourth million dollars or about 4 cents an acre. Can you think how important this was? This buying of half a continent is known in history as the Louisiana Purchase.

So the Americans were truly the pioneers. After Spain and England and France gave up these lands, the Americans moved in. They came by the long hard route from the Atlantic coast and the mountains. When we speak of our pioneers today we mean the Americans who settled in Alabama to stay.

Alabama was largely Indian country. It was dangerous to travel, so the custom grew for a number of people to travel together for protection. Some of the pioneers walked. Some rode horseback. You would have thought it strange to see the women, wives and daughters, riding on pillions or cushions behind the men's saddles. Some families were lucky enough to have covered wagons drawn by horses or by oxen yoked together. Others loaded their household goods on pack horses. Often there was no road. A path had to be hacked through the wilderness. Streams had to be forded. Sometimes rudely made flatboats floated a party downstream.

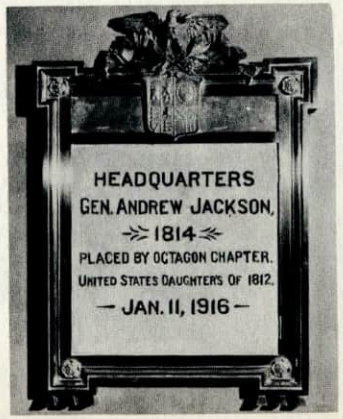
When the pioneers camped at night they built a fire to cook supper. They lighted pine torches to see by and to frighten off the wolves and forest animals. Making a fire was not so easy as it is today when we just strike a match or use a patent lighter. Neither matches nor lighters had been invented. Fires were started by rubbing two dry sticks together or by striking sparks from flint rock with an iron. Supper was a simple meal. Grown-ups and children ate cornbread, called in those days, ash cake or sometimes johnny-cake. Sweet potatoes were baked in the coals. Meat was cooked on sticks over the fire. Oh, how good it did smell! It tasted even better.

While they ate and rested, the campers told stories about the homes they had left, or about what they heard of the new country to which they were going. Some one

in the party was sure to have a banjo or a mouth harp. The people played, sang, perhaps danced a jig, or had a square dance together. Many old American tunes and dances have come down to us from the pioneers. One of the favorites we know now was "Oh Susannah".

It was during this early American period, 1813-14, that the Creek Indians began their wars with the white pioneers. The Creeks wanted to drive the settlers away from the hunting grounds. Chief Red Eagle attacked Fort Mims, near Stockton, Alabama. All but a few of the 500 white settlers were massacred. General Andrew Jackson marched down from Tennessee with a large army and joined the Alabama troops. He fought and won many battles. After a final battle at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River, he conquered the Creeks. This was March 27, 1814.

The mighty Red Eagle came into camp and surrendered. Andrew Jackson called him the bravest man he had ever known.



General Jackson Plaque in Battle House.
COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

Canoe fight. From mural by J. Augustus Walker in City Hall.
COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

Chapter VII

Alabama Becomes a State

We all like to celebrate our own and our friends' birthdays.

Did you know that your state of Alabama has a birthday, too? Alabama became a state December 14, 1819. Whenever a state is formed and admitted into the Union, a new star is put into the flag. Alabama was the twenty-second state to be admitted into the United States. The star that stands for Alabama is on the third row from the top. That same year, 1819, Mobile began its history as an important port and Alabama's only seaport.

Many people early in the nineteenth century wanted to buy land and settle in or near Mobile. Samuel Dale, a brave pioneer lad, guided wagon trains to this part of the country. Sam Dale also helped Andrew Jackson to fight against the Indians. After a while the United States Government gave good lands in the west to these Indians. Most of the Indians moved out on that land. Those who remained signed a treaty of peace.

Now the country was safe for white people to settle. Everyone wanted to buy large tracts of land. Even the very richest land sold for ten cents an acre. Today this same land is worth many times that amount. Cypress,

pine, maple, oak, and gum grew tall and thick. One tree, today, is sometimes worth several hundred dollars.

When Alabama became a state the United States Government set aside land for the schools. Every sixteenth section of land was set aside for use of the schools. Mobile County schools still own 22,500 acres of these sixteenth section lands. Cared for by a school forester, these Mobile County lands bring in money for the schools.

Some of the early settlers cleared their large tracts of land and planted cotton. Mobile grew with the success of the cotton industry. Truly, "Cotton was King" and Mobile was the capital city of the cotton empire. River steamers brought cotton from the plantations miles away.

The wharf was piled high with thousands of bales. Large boats could not get close enough to the wharf to load. The channel in the river was too shallow. Small boats had to take a few bales at a time to large boats anchored below at the entrance of Mobile Bay. John Quincy Adams was then the President of the United States. In 1826, he allotted $10,000 to Mobile to dredge a deeper channel. After the new channel was dredged, large ships could come up to the city and unload and load their cargoes. Cotton and lumber were shipped to England and to France as well as to cities in America.

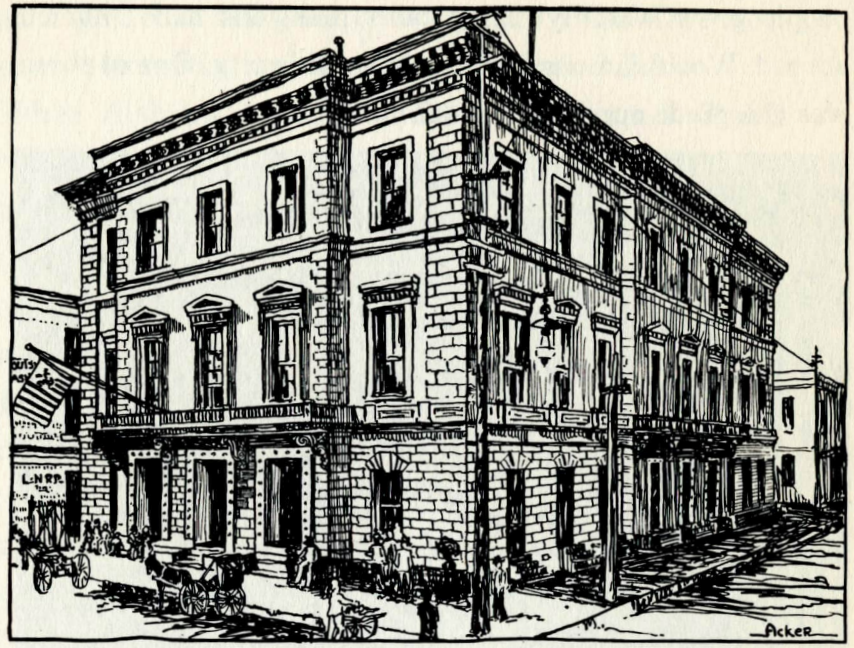
Mobile was now more than a century old. On January 20, 1814, it had become an incorporated city.

By 1850, cotton was selling so well that many Mobile

people grew wealthy. They built mansions and traveled abroad. World famous people visited this city. One of these was the great opera star, Adelina Patti.

Madame Octavia Walton LeVert, brilliant social leader of Mobile in the Golden Age before the War of the Sixties. Great people of many countries visited her home at 153 Government Street. She was called "The most charming woman in the world."

COURTESY, MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY

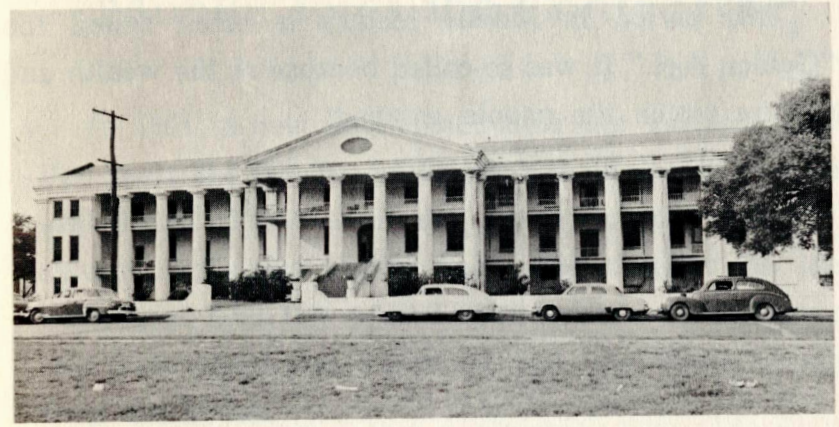


Old Customs House and Post Office, built in 1856.

COURTESY, FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The home of Madame Octavia Walton LeVert extended Southern hospitality to the great people of the world. Henry Clay, early American statesman, Edgar Allen Poe, the American poet, Mary Anderson, the famous actress, and Theodore O'Hara, the editor of The Mobile Register, were among her guests. Dr. Josiah Knott, who even then thought the mosquito was the carrier of yellow fever, visited Mme. LeVert. Ole Bull, famous violinist, and William Walker, the Cuban filibuster, were also among the many seen in this house. The LeVert home still stands on the southwest corner of Government and St. Emanuel Streets.

The American actor, Joseph Jefferson, was born in Mobile. The building at the Southwest corner of Royal and St. Michael Streets is marked as his birthplace. Sarah



City Hospital. One of the buildings designed by Thomas James, famous architect of the Fifties.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

Joseph Jefferson, famous actor, once lived in this house, where there is now a restaurant named in his honor.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

Bernhardt, the famous French actress, came to Mobile. She played at old Temperance Hall which used to stand on the northeast corner of St. Michael and St. Joseph.

This period in Mobile history is often called the "Golden Age." It was so-called because of the wealth and culture which the people enjoyed.

Chapter VIII

Mobile Joins the Confederacy

In 1861, a new flag floated over the southern states. For years the North and South had disagreed over several things. They could not agree on the question of slavery and states' rights. Each side thought its ideas were right. Each felt injured by the other side. Their quarrels grew worse and worse. At last the South seceded from the Union.

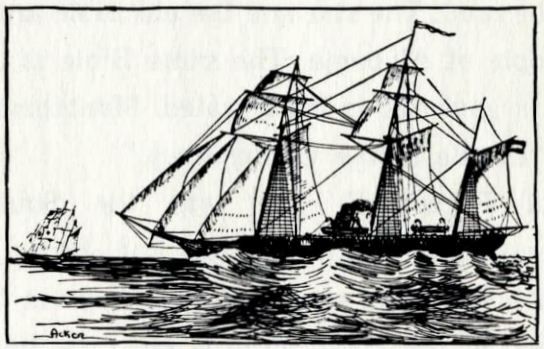
Men from eleven southern states met in Montgomery. They organized the Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis was chosen president. A gold star marks the spot in the State Capitol where he stood to take the oath of office. Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, Director of the Department of Archives and History, has in the department the Bible he used. The star and the old Bible are treasured by the people of Alabama. The same Bible is used when an Alabama governor is inaugurated. Montgomery earned the title, "Cradle of the Confederacy."

General Robert E. Lee was the South's great commander-in-chief. Southern men and boys joined his forces. All able-bodied men and even boys in their teens were needed at the front. Mobile sent its full share of brave men to the Confederate army. Still there were

never enough soldiers to fill the ranks. The ill, wounded, and killed could not be replaced. The army never had enough provisions, ammunition, nor hospital supplies. After four terrible years of gallant fighting, the South was forced to surrender.

At this time, Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States. In 1863 he issued the Emancipation Proclamation which freed the slaves. Many plantation owners had already begun to free their slaves. Some freedmen went away and tried to take care of themselves. Others proved their loyalty and devotion by staying with their "white folks." They helped in every way possible through those sad years.

Food was very scarce. Most of it had to be sent to the soldiers. Crops could not be planted since almost all men were in the army. Federal troops passing through took the grain, drove away the livestock, and stripped the smokehouses.



C. S. S. Alabama. (Old Print).

COURTESY, FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Clothes were made of a coarse material called cottonade or homespun. It was spun, woven, and dyed at home. Strong thorns were used for pins and persimmon seeds for buttons. Hats were made of plaited straw, corn shucks, and palmetto strips. They were trimmed with real flowers.

Raphael Semmes, Admiral of the Confederate Navy.

Robert E. Lee, General of the Confederate Army.

COURTESY OF MR. R. B. CHANDLER, AND MISS LAURA E. SIMMONS

Two great Moblians were famous Confederate officers. One was Admiral Raphael Semmes, commander of the Alabama. In two years he captured over sixty-five Union vessels. He took their cargoes, burned the ships, but saved

the people. After the war the Federal government put the admiral in prison as a pirate. For a while he was in danger of being hanged but was finally released. He spent his last years in Mobile. He was honored by all who knew him. A Mobile hotel and two public schools, besides other places, bear his name. You may see his statue standing above the entrance to Bankhead Tunnel. It looks just as he did, when he stood on the deck of his Confederate gunboat, the Alabama.

The other Confederate officer was Abram Joseph Ryan. He was a chaplain in General Lee's army. Father Ryan was called the Poet-Priest of the South. Two of his best known poems about the Confederacy are "The Sword of Lee" and "The Conquered Banner." He came to Mobile after the war and was pastor at St. Mary's Church. His statue now stands in Ryan Park on Spring Hill Avenue. Both of these heroes are buried in Mobile and tourists often ask to see their graves.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

Chapter IX

Union Troops Take the City

For months terror hung over the city of Mobile. One day eighteen Union ships lined up in the gulf. Four of these were ironclad. Their Admiral, David Farragut, planned to force his way between Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines. Then he could enter Mobile Bay.

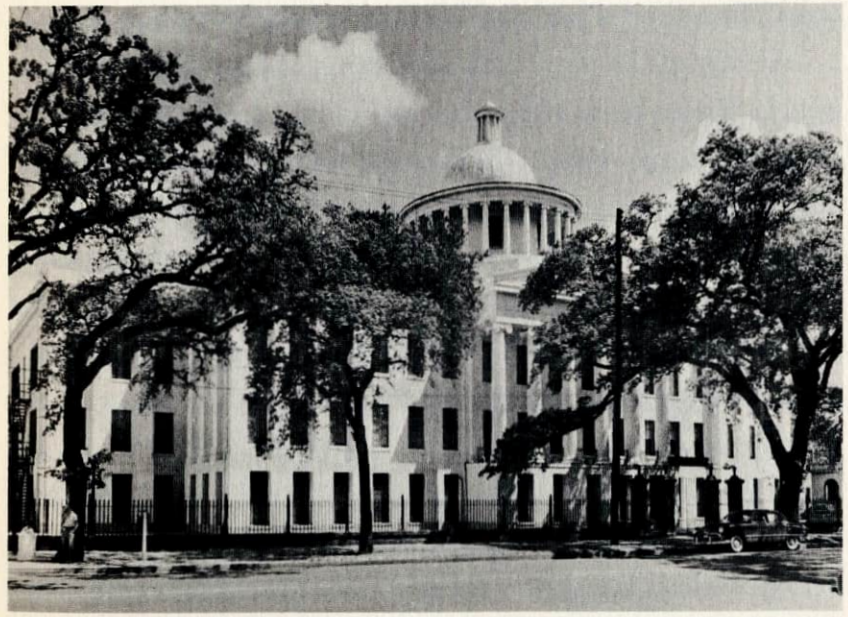
The Confederate Navy was anchored in the bay. There were three tiny gunboats and just one large armored vessel. This largest one was called the Tennessee. It was a powerful armored ram. The Confederate Navy tried to stop the northern fleet. All day a fierce battle went on until the three Confederate gunboats were silenced. For some hours the Tennessee fought on alone. Her smokestack and steering gear were shot away. Her commanding officer was badly wounded. The Tennessee had to surrender. The Battle of Mobile Bay ended, August 5, 1864.

Farragut's ships then passed between the two forts that guarded the entrance to Mobile Bay. Fort Gaines surrendered almost at once. Fort Morgan, superior in guns and armaments, was defended and held for two weeks. The white flag was then raised.

The army of Mobile was made up of young boys and old men. Some of the boys were as young as fourteen

years of age. The men were sixty years old and some even older. They could not hold out against the Northern Army. After twelve days of fighting Mobile surrendered on April 12, 1865.

That was a dark day for the proud city of Mobile. On the streets were seen old men, little boys, and war cripples. In the homes sad-faced women waited. They heard the Union soldiers marching through the city. Their sons had gone away to die for the South. They could not bear the sight of these soldiers in blue coats marching up Government Street. Their eyes filled with tears and they tightly closed the shutters on their windows. The Union



Barton Academy, oldest Public School in Alabama, erected in 1835, was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers in 1865.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

soldiers carried their wounded men into Barton Academy. Alabama's first public school was turned into a hospital for soldiers.

There were lines of men along the dusty roads leading south. Confederate soldiers were trudging homeward. Some were walking. Some were riding poor worn-out horses. Kind people along the way helped to make the trip easier. They took the heroes in for a warm meal and a night's rest. Perhaps there were no sheets on the beds, no carpets, nor curtains but there was a welcome. The people had only the plainest food but they were glad to share it with these brave men. The soldiers rested all night and then started on their way the following morning.

All along the way they saw things that saddened their hearts. There were signs of destruction everywhere. Blackened chimneys stood where once were beautiful homes. The houses along the way that had not been burned needed many repairs. Roofs were sagging. Fences were down. Bridges were broken through. Fields grew up in weeds. All these things told the story of a lost war.

Strangers poured into the South. Some of them were greedy. They hoped to get the lands and property of the defeated Southerners for nothing. They brought all they owned in cheap grips made of scraps of carpet. They were called "cargetbaggers" because of the grips they carried. Some low type persons of the South, called "scalawags" joined the carpetbaggers. Many ignorant freedman

joined them. This made up a rude and dishonest group that did much harm to the South.

Mobile suffered with the rest of the South. The streets were crowded with idle Negroes. They had not been trained to work for themselves. They had always been cared for and protected. They had not yet learned how to use their freedom rightly.

Business came to a standstill when the Federal Army of the North took over the city. Banks could do nothing. Confederate money was no good any more. The loyal people who had put their fortunes into Confederate bonds to support the South had no money now. Food was high priced and hard to get. The women made imitation coffee from parched corn.

Ladies had to take good care of their dresses because even cheap calico cost $25 a yard. Little boys and girls wore homemade hats made of plaited palmetto leaves.

The ruined water front was deserted. There were no busy wharves now. The idle ships were slowly settling down into sand bars and mud flats. The river was choked with weeds. The channel which had been dredged for ships to come in was ruined.

Mobile was indeed an unhappy place.

Chapter X

Citizens Rebuild Mobile

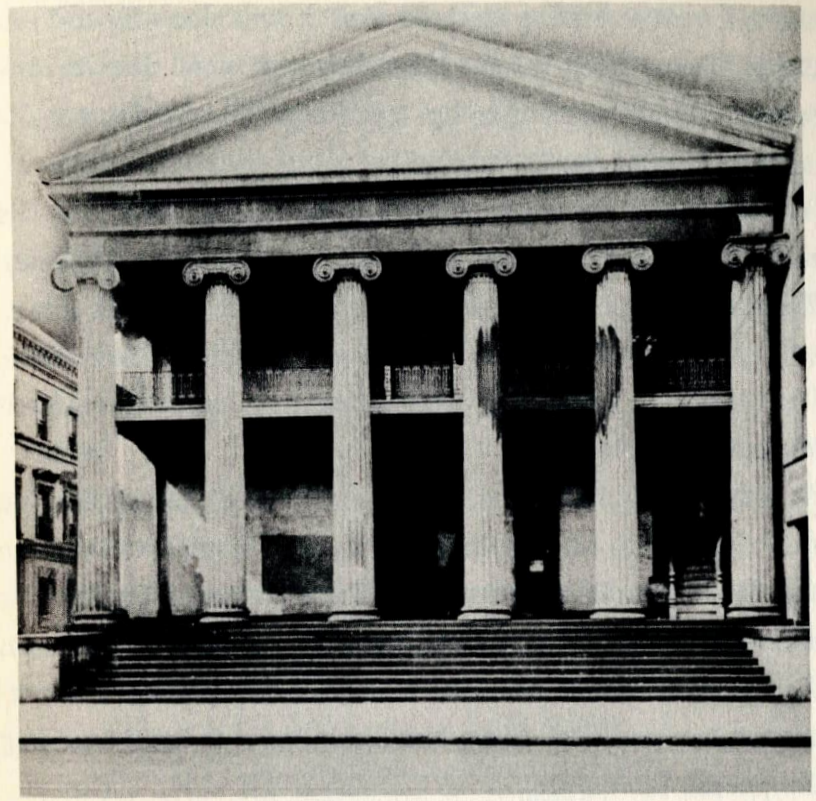
The South knew by bitter experience what it means to lose a war. The year 1865 has often been called Mobile's darkest hour. It takes one kind of courage to fight in battle. Our soldiers needed another kind of courage when they came home from the war. They found their homes wrecked, their business destroyed. Our Southern men had to face the slow hard task of rebuilding a city.

You must remember that these men had lived through the terrible years of war. Many of them were wounded. They were tired from the long march home. They had little left to build on but they had the will to start again.

There was much ammunition left over. Since this was dangerous, the Negroes were put to work at once unload-

Great Magazine Explosion at Mobile in 1865 as Harper's Weekly sketched it.

COURTESY, FIRST NATIONAL BANK



First home of the First National Bank of Mobile, which began business October 18, 1865, and today is the oldest bank in Alabama. This building, on the Northwest corner of Royal and St. Francis Streets, was where the GM&O Railroad building is now located.

COURTESY, FIRST NATIONAL BANK

ing and storing the explosives. About 200 tons were stored in the United States Ordnance Depot. This building stood at Congress and Lipscomb streets. It was called a magazine, meaning a place for keeping explosives and military supplies.

One day there was a sudden explosion. No one ever knew just how it happened. No one lived to tell the story.

Northern newspapers claimed that it was done by the ex-Confederates as revenge. More likely it was due to the carelessness of the untrained freedmen. They did not know how to handle explosives.

Hundreds of people were killed. Ships sank in the river. Thousands of bales of cotton burned on the wharves. Property worth $750,000 was destroyed. It was the greatest disaster Mobile ever had. It happened in May, 1865. This event is known in Mobile history as "The Great Magazine Explosion".

Yet it was in that dark year that a group of Mobile men decided to start a bank. They had hope and courage and foresight. They set up the First National Bank. It is the oldest bank in Alabama. It was a good influence on the business life of the city and gave the people a much-needed service. The First National Bank is still serving the people of Mobile.

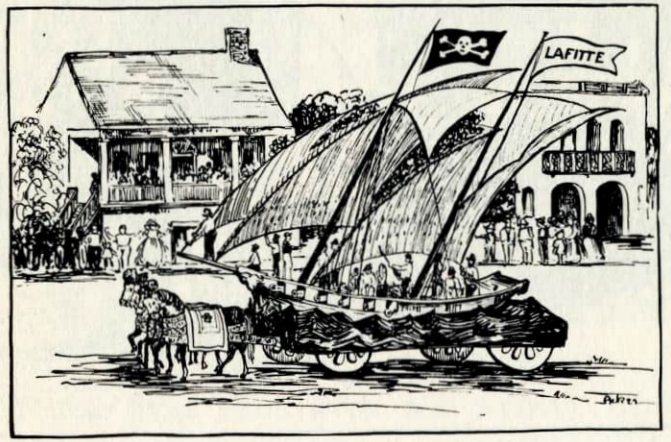
Not all Northerners were carpetbaggers. In 1873, panic struck the South. The suffering among the starving Southerners was severe. Good people in the North raised large sums of money for the relief of the South. This generous deed caused better feelings between the North and South.

In spite of many discouraging things, Mobile made progress. Carpetbaggers and scalawags were cleaned out of the city government. By 1875 citizens had elected honorable men to public offices.

The South never forgot the heroes of the War Between the States. Mobilians named a school for General Robert E. Lee, the South's greatest military leader. In the hearts of school children here, his memory will live forever.

The Mobile Cotton Exchange was founded in 1871. Thirty-two telephones, the first to be installed, were put up in 1879. The first water-works company was organized. It was called the Bienville Water Works. The city then had pure water. A sewer system was laid.

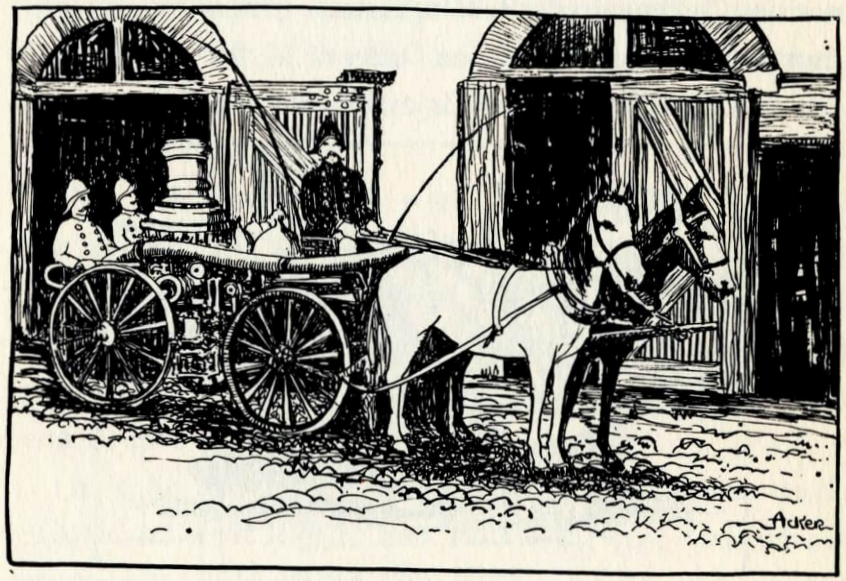
For years Mobile had its own carnival season, beginning on New Year's Eve, 1831. On that night, Michael Krafft and his friends staged a parade on the streets with cowbells and rakes. Out of this grew the important Cowbellion de Rakein Society, first of the so-called mystic societies. In 1868, the Order of Myths began parading at Mardi Gras time. This earned for Mobile the name,



Mardi Gras float in O. O. M. Parade, 1884.
COURTESY, FIRST NATIONAL BANK

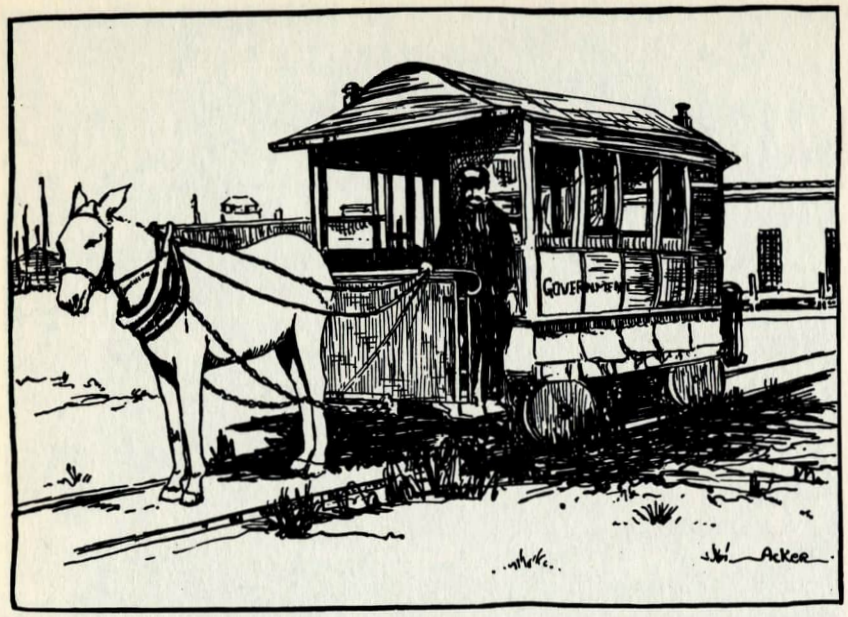
"Mother of Mystics". It was the first city on this continent to adopt the carnival season of the old countries. During the war years, naturally, the celebration was given up. When peace returned, Mobile returned to its enjoyment of Mardi Gras.

It had always been the custom for young men of Mobile to serve as volunteer fire-fighters. The city started a paid fire department in 1888. Among the first of the paid companies was the famous Creole Steam Fire Company No. 1. It had an old-fashioned steamer or boiler wagon. When an alarm sounded, Creole No. 1 would take off from its fire house on the southwest corner of Dearborn and St. Francis. The old building is still standing.



Mobile fire engine of the old days.

COURTESY, FIRST NATIONAL BANK

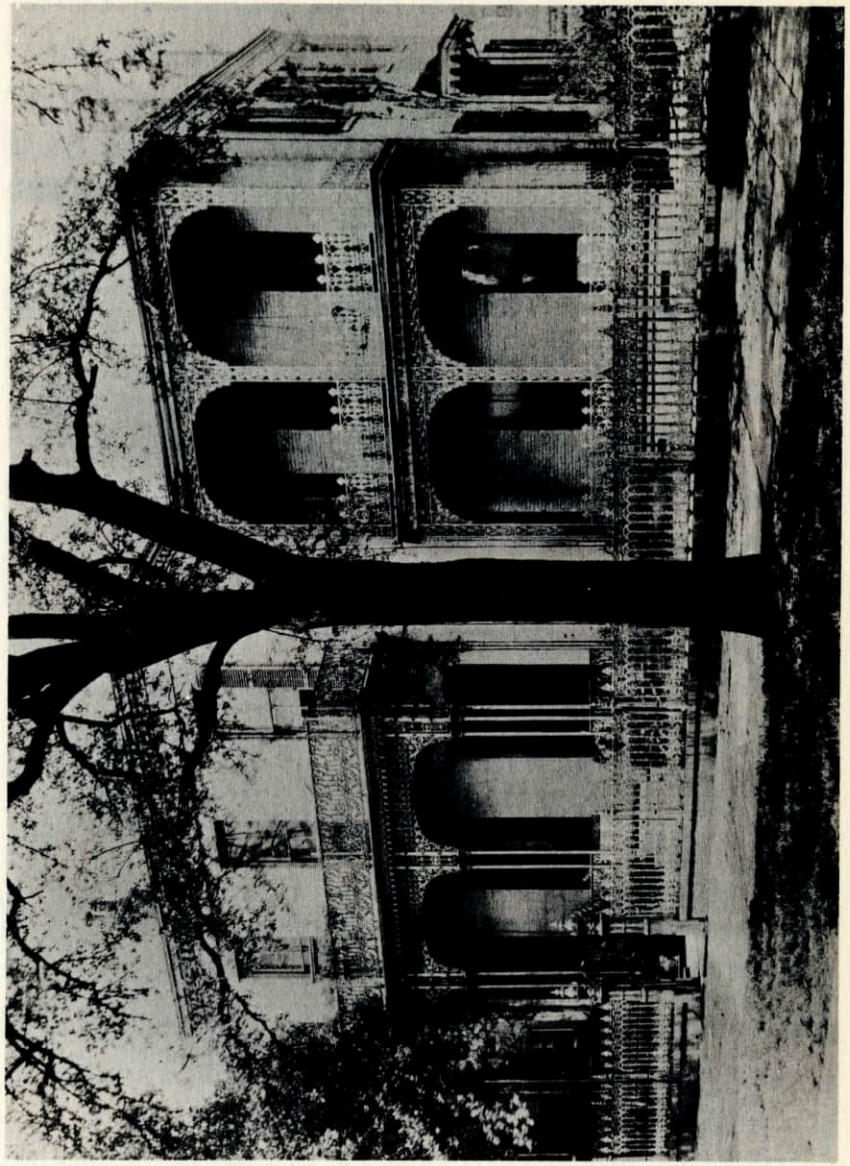


These old horse-drawn street cars gave way to the first electric street car in Mobile in 1893.

COURTESY, FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Horse drawn cars gave way to the first electric street cars. The city started to pave its streets. The Federal Government dug a deeper channel in Mobile River. Soon larger ships could come into port. Mobile then had dry-docks where shipbuilding and ship repairs boomed. A grain elevator was built. Loads of lumber went out from Alabama and cargoes of bananas came in. These and other exports and imports helped to make Mobile a prosperous port city.

Of course those years were not without hardships. Yellow fever epidemics took lives. Mobile's own General William Gorgas believed that mosquitoes spread the fever



Birthplace of General Gorgas. This house was at the Northeast corner of Government and Claiborne where The Mobile Press Register building now stands.

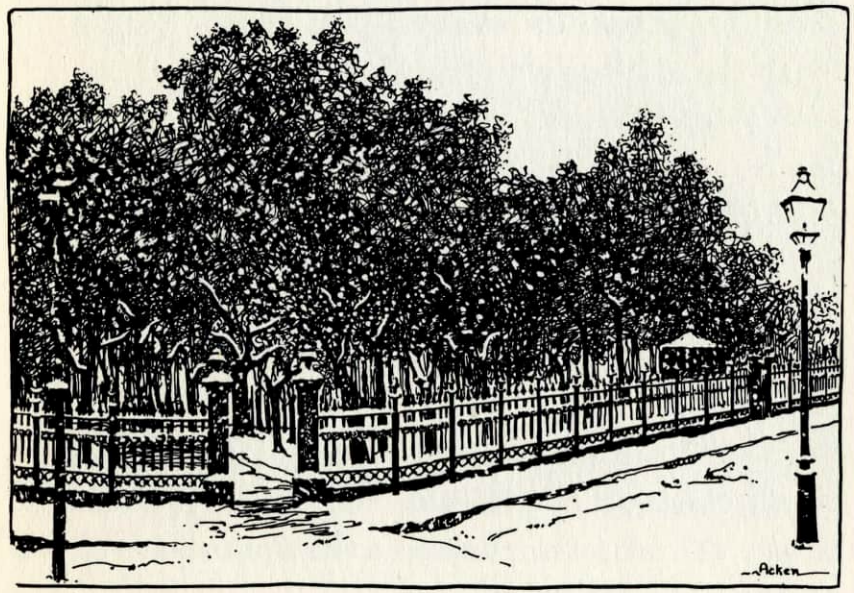
COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

germ. By using this idea, General Gorgas whipped "Yellow Jack".

Hurricanes, from time to time, lashed the coast, causing loss of life and property. Mobile, with the rest of the country, suffered depressions, often called panics. The Spanish-American War and two World Wars claimed many of Mobile's young men.

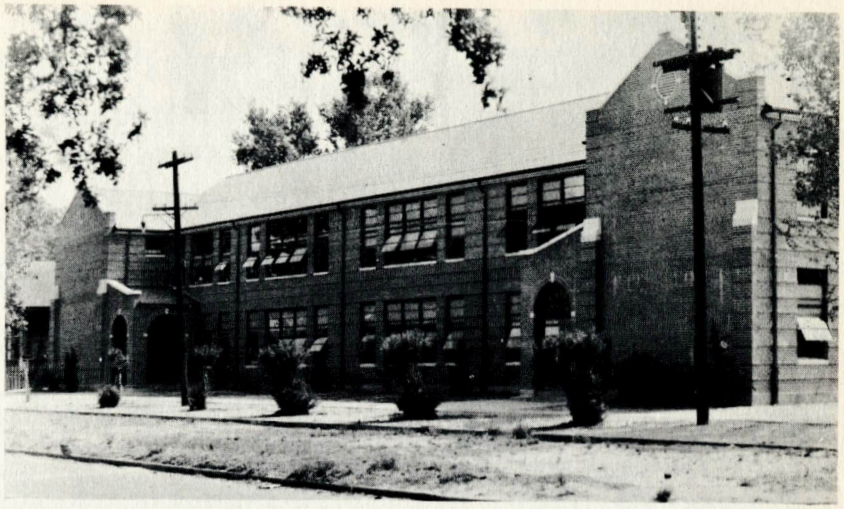
In spite of set backs, Mobile was a growing city. Industries began to take a look at this area as a good location for factories.

During this period, interest grew in a school of advanced grade for colored pupils. In 1887 the Board of



In 1881, a six-inch snow covered Bienville Square which still had an iron fence around it.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER



Caldwell School, built in 1947, replaced old Broad Street Acadamy, established in 1887 by Professor W. A. Caldwell.

School Commissioners erected the building known as the Broad Street Academy.

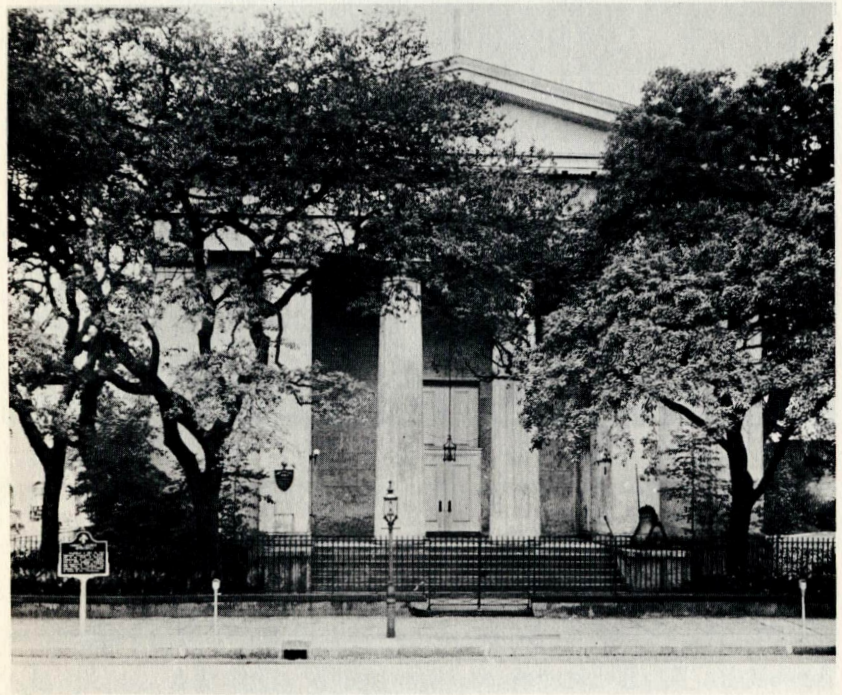
Professor William Aymer Caldwell was made principal. The first class to complete the four-year course was composed of four young men and twelve young women. Superintendent E. R. Dickson awarded School Board diplomas to the first graduates, June 18, 1891. This occasion marked a distinct epoch in the educational history of the colored citizens of Mobile.

In 1947, the old school was torn down and a modern building replaced it. The name was changed to Caldwell School. This school is a lasting monument to one who was a leader of his people.

Chapter XI

Mobile County Spreads Out

Did you know that Mobile was once part of the Mississippi Territory? That was before Alabama or Mississippi had become states. This is a good place to review some early history. It will help you to understand how Mobile County was formed.



Christ Church, built in 1841, is the mother-church of Episcopalians in Alabama.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

In 1812, the Congress ruled that the District of Mobile was a part of the United States. Governor Holmes of the Mississippi Territory at once laid out the County of Mobile.

Mobile declared itself a city in 1814. By 1815, what was once a village of a few hundred people, had become

City Hall on South Royal Street dates back to 1858. It is a beautiful example of Spanish architecture. Once the lower floor was a market, and slaves were sold in the rear.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

a busy city. It spread out from the water front to about where the Admiral Semmes Hotel is now. It reached as far as St. Louis Street on the north. On the south the city's boundary was Government Street. Below that was Beinville's old Fort Condé or Fort Charlotte as the English

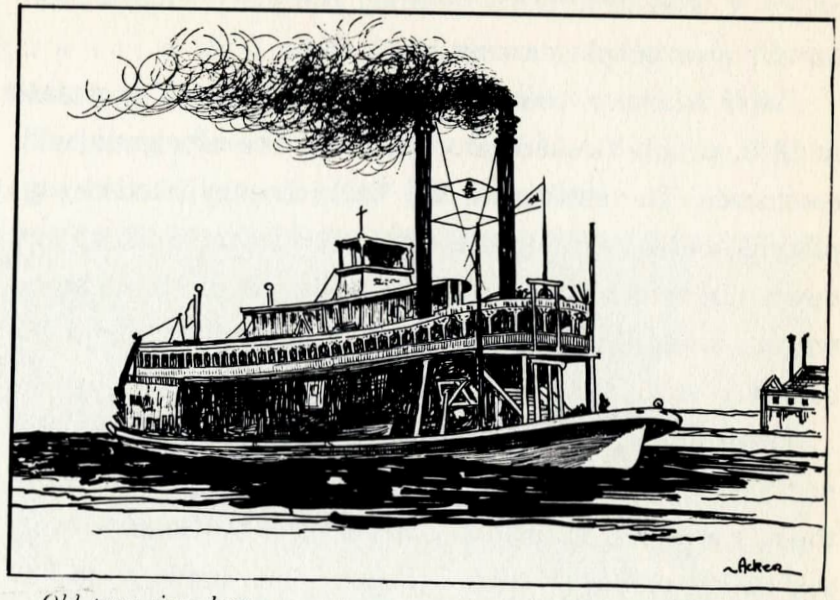
called it. The Americans blew up the fort to make room for the new people moving in.

After Alabama was admitted into the Union as a state in 1819, people flocked into this area. The city grew with commerce. The settlers in the back country needed supplies. Some were brought by steamboats that went up and down the rivers from Mobile. Some were brought by wagons along the new roads, fast being built out into the county.

Government Street was extended. Roads were pushed north to Three Mile Creek and to the gas works. West of the city was the old Military Road, used by General Jackson on his march to New Orleans. This road is still in existence. Along the bay shore there was a gleaming white carriage drive made of crushed oyster shells. It was called the Bay Shell Road. Another drive, called Old Shell Road, ran out to Spring Hill. Many streets and roads were made of oyster shells in those days.

Later the railroads came. One little railroad ran South to Coden. Another went north to Citronelle. Muddy and dusty dirt roads finally gave way to paved highways. Automobiles took the place of old-fashioned wagons and horseback riders.

Today there are many interesting places to visit in Mobile County. Each settlement seems to have its own special quality. Three of these small villages grew large enough to become towns. Now Mobile County has four



Old time river boat.

COURTESY, FIRST NATIONAL BANK

towns: Mobile, Citronelle, Prichard, and Chickasaw. Each has its own mayor and town council.

Citronelle, oldest of the towns after Mobile, was once a noted health resort. Located on the old Mobile and Ohio Railroad, in the hills to the north, it is the highest spot in the county. Tourists and invalids were attracted by the healthful climate and the pure water. When the famous Hygeia Hotel burned, the tourist business fell off.

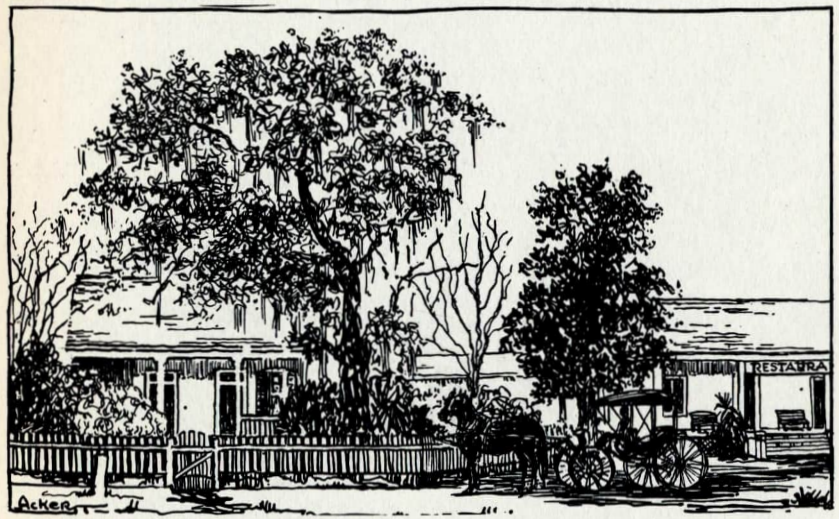
During harvest time, today, Citronelle is a busy place. Workers gather nuts from the tung trees. From these nuts oil is pressed out and used in making paints.

At Citronelle there are three Scout camps: Pushmataha and Leon Roberts camps for boys and Scoutshire for girls.

Scoutshire belongs to the School Board. When it is not leased to the Girl Scouts, it is used for outdoor education classes from the public schools. It is also a gathering place for Mobile teachers.

Another town is Prichard. This has been rated as the fastest growing town in Alabama. Prichard is proud of its modern schools, churches, and business houses. The town is largely made up of the families of those employed in construction plants in and around Mobile. So, Prichard is said to be an industrial town.

Chickasaw, north of Mobile, is the newest town in Mobile County. This town gets its name from a tribe of Indians that once lived there. During the war years Chickasaw was the center of much shipbuilding. It has contin-

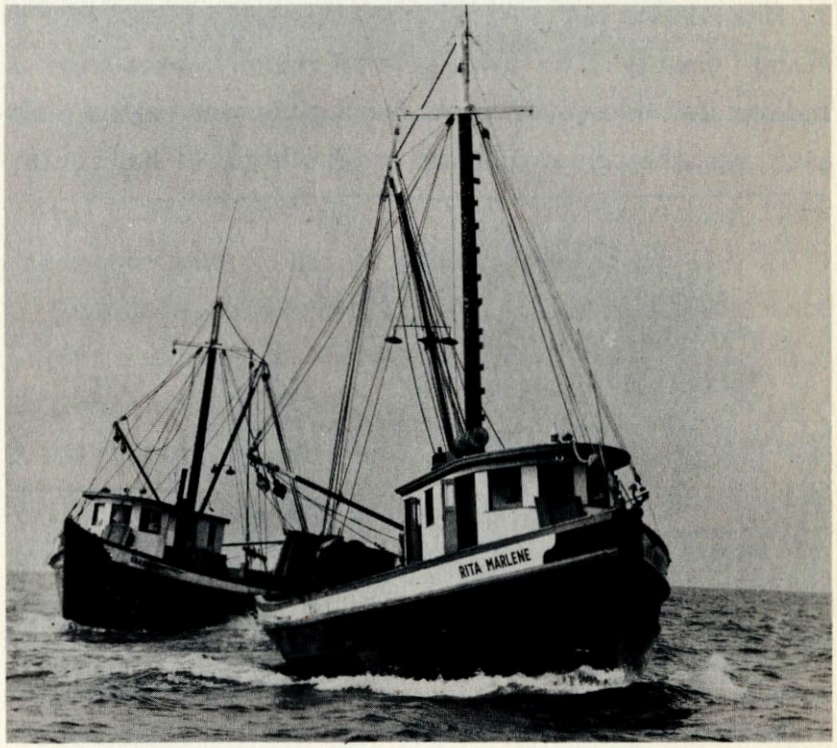


Bay Shell Road, once a fashionable drive "down the bay," is now part of Brookley Air Force Base.

COURTESY, FIRST NATIONAL BANK

ued to progress. Many plants chose to locate in Chickasaw because of its advantages. Fishing camps and boat storage places dot the banks of Chickasabogue Creek.

Besides the towns, there are several small places with interesting activities. West of Mobile is Semmes, called "Camellia Capital of the World." Each fall, camellias, azaleas, magnolias and other shrubs are dug and prepared for shipment all over the United States. From the time these shrubs begin to bloom, Semmes is in the spotlight. The nurseries have hundreds of acres covered with grow-



"Shrimp Boats Are Comin'."

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

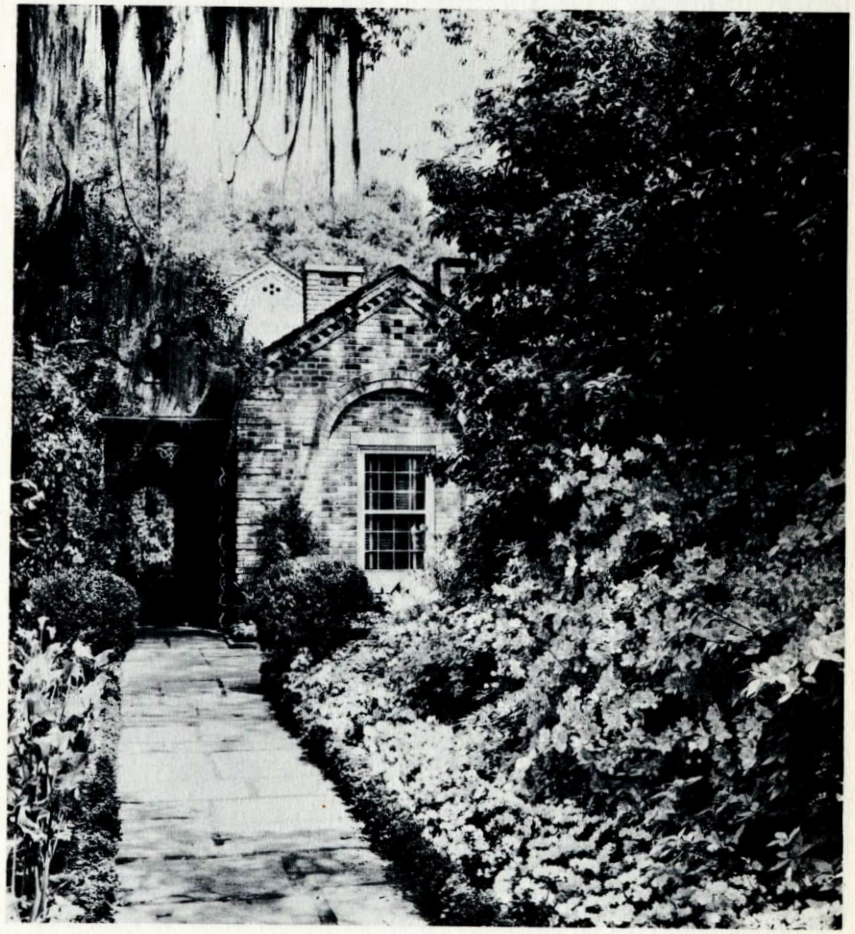
Shrimping is a main industry in Mobile waters.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

ing plants. The industry employs several hundred people.

Visitors from all over the world come to Semmes in the spring for the colorful Camellia Festival.

In the south end of Mobile County is Bayou la Batre. It was settled many years ago by the French. Fishing, shrimping, and tonging for oysters are the main industry.



Flagstone walk bordered by azaleas in beautiful Bellingrath Gardens.
COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

At Bayou la Batre there is a large cannery where seafoods are packed and shipped. Bayou la Batre is a favorite place for fishing parties. Artists, too, like to go there. Its moss-draped oaks, the boats in the bayou, and the quaint village have been the subject of numerous sketches.

Bellingrath Gardens, on the Isle aux Oies River, to the south, is a national floral shrine. Thousands of rare shrubs and flowers have been planted in these semi-tropical gardens. Landscape artists have laid out the gardens with all the skill at their command.

Known as "The Charm Spot of the Deep South", Bellingrath Gardens are visited daily by thousands of tourists. Mr. Walter D. Bellingrath and his wife, the late Mrs. Bessie Morse Bellingrath, worked together for many years to create this beautiful spot. It is one of the show places of the county.

Recently, historic Dauphin Island has come into its own. Each year in August a huge fishing rodeo is held at the island. Sportsmen from all over the world come to try their luck. Prizes are awarded to the best fishermen.

Now, Dauphin Island is on the eve of a new development. A bridge to connect the island with the mainland will be built. The island has been laid off in lots, roads, streets, and beaches. Historic sites such as Fort Gaines, the Indian Mounds, and Isabella de Soto's Walk will be preserved. Dauphin Island is on Highway 45, a direct route from Chicago and the Great Lakes to the Gulf.

Thus you can see how Mobile County has spread out and how varied and interesting it is.

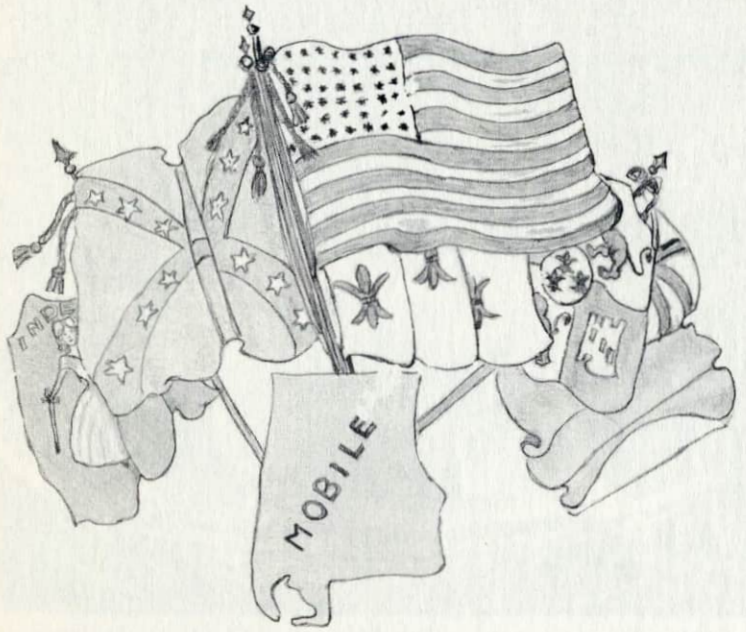
Monolith in Bellingrath Gardens tells the story of these famed gardens for all time.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

Chapter XII

Mobile Looks Ahead

The history of Mobile is a history of discovery. It is a story of exploration in a new land. It tells how a city was built. People of different races, colors, and faiths settled in Mobile. They were welcomed here and made good citizens. Many of you can be proud of the part your forefathers had in the growth of Mobile. It is well for us to



These are the six flags which have floated over Mobile. The Historic Mobile Preservation Society has adopted the Six Flags as its insignia.

COURTESY, MRS. SIDNEY PHILLIPS, THE ARTIST

remember this "goodly heritage". We should honor their memory by being good citizens today.

It was over 250 years ago that a band of daring French explorers started their small village on Mobile River. Dur-

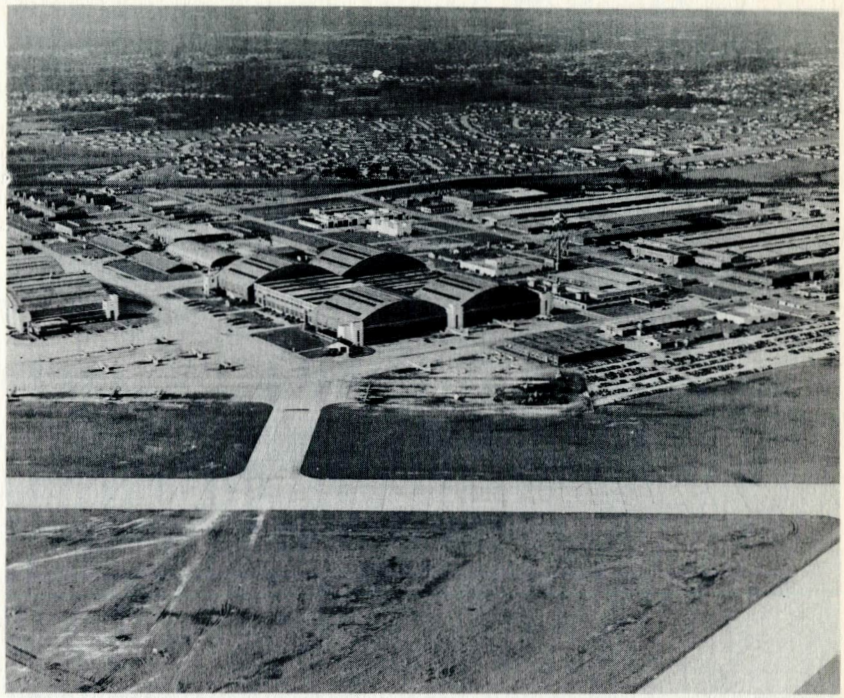
Lobby of Waterman Building. Many students are able to get valuable information about Mobile history and about other nations from the famous Albrizzio Murals and the huge globe of the world.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

View of business district in downtown Mobile seen through Bienville Square, shows Merchants Bank building on right and Waterman building on left.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

ing those years Mobile has lived under six different flags: the French, the British, the Spanish, the United States, the Secession flag, the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy, and again the flag of the United States. About a hundred persons made up the French village on the bluff. Today, the population of Greater Mobile is nearly 250,000. A pleasant climate, friendly folk and large industries attract people to Mobile.



Brookley Air Force Base as it looks from the air.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER

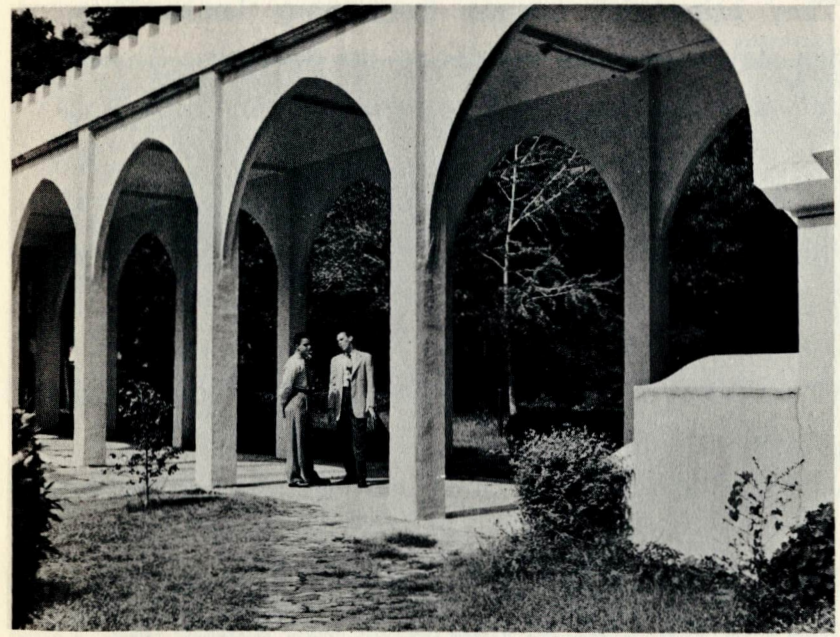
Wouldn't you have fun taking a Frenchman of long ago on a tour of Mobile today? He would enjoy riding over miles and miles of paved streets. With a thrill of pride we would show him our lovely azaleas. These azaleas are decendants of plants brought from his native France. Beautiful gardens and spreading moss-draped oaks would rouse his admiration.

Among our sky-scrapers, he would see the Merchants National Bank and the Waterman Building. He would pause to admire our stately homes, large apartment houses, and many playgrounds. We would show him three modern

hospitals: Mobile, Providence, and Blessed Martin de Porres hospitals. The Chamber of Commerce, the U. S. Postoffice, and the Federal Building would certainly astonish him.

We would take him up in a plane from Bates Field and give him an air view of the city. He would see below the Alabama State Docks and Brookley Air Force Base.

After the flight he would visit our modern public schools where many thousand Mobile children are enrolled. Private and parochial schools enroll thousands more. He would see Spring Hill College which is more than a



Historic archway at Spring Hill College, founded in 1830 by Catholic Bishop Michael Portier. With the Jesuits as instructors, it is the oldest college in Alabama.

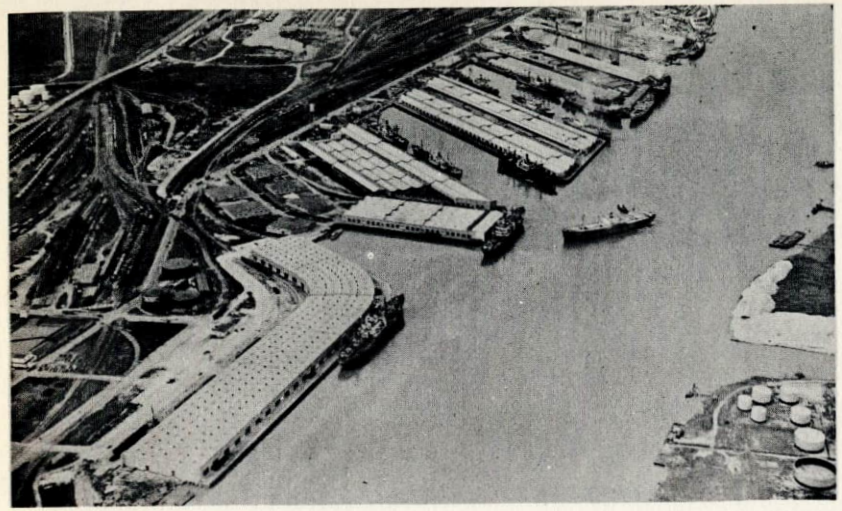
COURTESY, SPRING HILL COLLEGE

hundred years old. The Mobile Center of the University of Alabama is here. Beautiful churches for people of many faiths would impress him.

The crowning point of the tour would be our trip to the State Docks. He would be amazed at the great ships. Here long ago only tiny sailing vessels were to be seen. He would be interested in a banana boat from South America unloading its delicious cargo. He would see piles of bauxite, manganese ore, and nitrate of soda. He would be surprised at the huge tanks filled with molasses from Cuba. Vessels from all over the world come into our port. They bring rich cargoes from many lands. They often stay for needed repairs at our drydocks. Then they reload with cotton, lumber, coal, steel, and other exports and speed away.

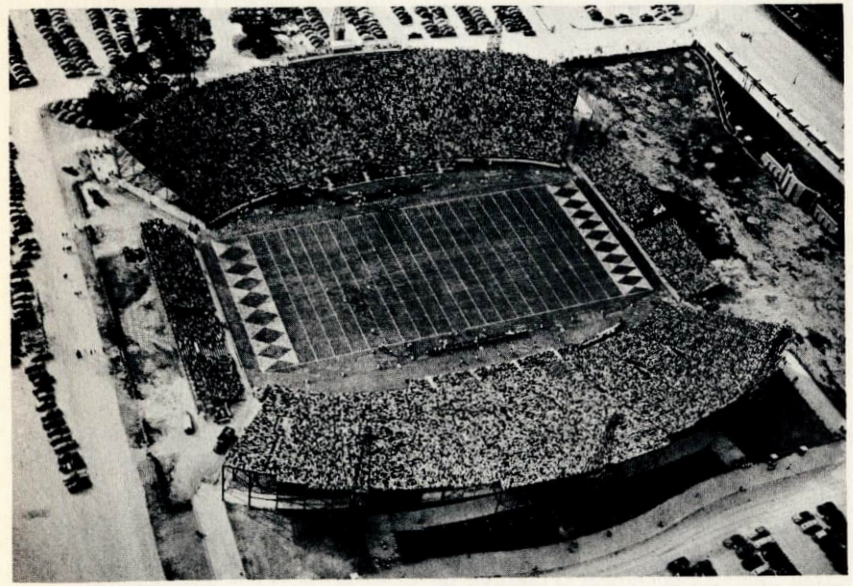
We would take this Frenchman of long ago for a drive north of the city. Not far from the first little village he would see wonderful developments. The Alabama Power Company has its Barry Steam Plant there. The Mathieson Chemical Company and the Courtaulds, Inc., rayon plants, are nearby.

Many of your parents or relatives work in the offices and plants which you have read about in this book. Perhaps you have heard them talk of these places. This book has told you what an interesting past Mobile has. From this past, a great city has arisen. Mobile looks ahead to a challenging future.



Alabama State Docks at Mobile.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER



Ladd Stadium, where football games and outdoor affairs are held. It was erected as a memorial to the late Mr. Ernest F. Ladd, President of the Merchants' National Bank, who had a great interest in sports.

COURTESY, MR. R. B. CHANDLER